SHOW'S OVER
THE QUEEN OF TALK TV SAYS GOODBYE
{page 26}

MAKE IT TEX-MEX TONIGHT
TRY THESE FAJITAS WITH A TWIST {page 32}

LADY GAGA PROMOTES HER NEW ALBUM
{page 28}

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News worth sharing.

Hockey

▶ Steven Stamkos of the Tampa Bay Lightning celebrates his third-period goal against the Boston Bruins yesterday in Tampa, Fla. Tampa Bay beat Boston 5-4 last night to force a Game 7 in the Eastern Conference final.

ELIOT J. SCHECHTER/GETTY IMAGES

Lightning strikes the Boston Bruins

The Vancouver Canucks will find out who they will play in the Stanley Cup final when the Bruins and Lightning face off in Game 7 tomorrow. More coverage, page 46.

HST to drop 2 percentage points: Falcon

Harmonized sales tax will fall to 10 per cent by 2014 if it survives referendum

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

The Christy Clark government announced plans yesterday to shave two percentage points off the controversial harmonized sales tax just ahead of next month's provincewide referendum.

Finance Minister Kevin Falcon said if voters in the referendum decide to keep the HST, it will go down one point on July 1, 2012, and another point in July 2014.

"We would be moving forward with an improved HST that is now good for both consumers and for B.C.'s job creators, our small business community," Falcon told reporters yesterday.

He said the provincial government is trying to ease the burden after an independent report found the HST is costing B.C. families $350 each year above what they paid with the PST-GST system.

Falcon added that in order to balance its budget by 2013 and 2014, the government is looking at ways to make up for the revenue loss. To defray the costs, the government will cancel a corporate income tax cut planned for Jan. 1 of next year, and delay a proposed small business tax cut slated for April 1, 2012.

But not everyone is too happy about the move.

"I think what they're trying to do is find a quick solution to a mess that was not handled very well in the first place," said Garth Whyte, president of the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association. "We don't see this as helpful at all. It's a lose-lose."

Whyte said members of the association have reported a drop in their sales because of the HST and seen a decrease in revenue from July 2010 to January 2011.

The plan, he added, won't be enough to convince them to support the HST in the June 13 mail-in referendum.

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City charting transit future

First transportation plan in 14 years Six weeks of town hall meetings will gather public views

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Transportation — it's an issue Vancouverites love to debate, and now residents are being asked to share their gripes, kudos and hopes for the future as the city sets its transportation goals for 2040.

At the top of the city's priority list is a long-awaited rapid transit system down the Broadway corridor, says Jerry Dobrovolny, director of transportation, something he said was missed in the city's last transportation plan.

Other improvements on the radar include more cycling routes, charging stations for low-carbon cars, more reliable transit and even beautifying sidewalks to encourage walking.

But before any holes are dug or trees are planted, staff will hold 11 town hall meetings — the first of which kicked off in Marpole last night — and 50 stakeholder meetings.

"The goal is to learn what's important to people and their vision for the city," Dobrovolny said.

"We don't update the transportation plan that often — every 10 or 20 years — so this is a big deal. It's important we hear as many different views as we can.

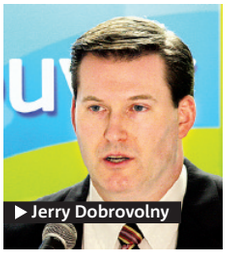
"One area where we've fallen short is the central Broadway area," he said, adding that 100,000 people travel that route every day, but the demand is nearly twice that.

"We're planning for growth but we don't have the road space, so we have to grow walking, cycling and transit."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ Commuters line up for a B-Line bus at the UBC bus loop.

Changing focus



▶ Jerry Dobrovolny

- Vancouver's population has grown by 18 per cent in the past 15 years, but the number of vehicles entering the city continues to decline, according to the city.
- The city's goal is to have 50 per cent of all trips made by bike, transit or foot by 2020 — up from about 40 per cent now, says Jerry Dobrovolny, director of transportation.
- Residents unable to attend one of 11 town hall meetings can make their views known online at TalkVancouver.com.

1 news

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Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae says his party heard the message from voters loud and clear. Video at metronews.ca

Anger at Missing Women's Inquiry

After aid for lawyers slashed, advocacy groups threaten to boycott provincial probe
Public inquiry will look at police investigations leading up to the arrest of Robert Pickton

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

The upcoming Missing Women's Inquiry is in danger of becoming a farce, according to advocates furious at the government's decision to restrict funding.

Pivot Legal Society, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association and Amnesty International are threatening to pull out of the inquiry altogether unless the "unprecedented" decision to not grant funding for recommended community groups is reversed.

Last week, Attorney General Barry Penner announced that only the families of serial killer Robert Pickton's victims would receive funding for lawyers to take part in the inquiry.

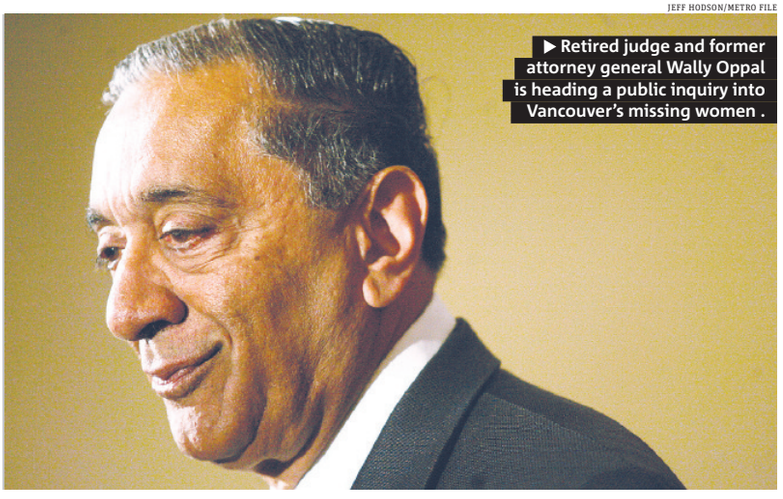
Commissioner Wally Oppal previously recommended that additional groups — such as the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, the February 14th Memorial March Committee, WISH and PACE Society — also be granted provincial aid.

"The wheels have fallen off the bus," said BCCLA executive director David Eby. "If these voices are not at the table, then our coalition won't participate at all."

The groups say they won't cut critical social services to afford the legal costs.

"Are we going to get justice in the end? I don't think so," said Walk for Justice co-founder Gladys Radek. "If these organizations are able to come in, we'd be able to work on those answers together."

JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE



▶ Retired judge and former attorney general Wally Oppal is heading a public inquiry into Vancouver's missing women .

Eby said the integrity of the long-awaited public inquiry has been compromised by the provincial government's decision to restrict funding.

"This inquiry is not going to go anywhere because it will end up being just a bunch of government lawyers talking to each other," he said. "They may as well adopt the (Vancouver police) and RCMP reports as factual and move on."

'Bad' heroin fingered

A batch of "bad" heroin has directly led to two overdose deaths in Abbotsford and is being investigated in several others, police said yesterday.

Abbotsford police spokesperson Const. Ian MacDonald said officers and health officials are trying to warn drug users about the increased danger the heroin presents.

Some of the drugs tested throughout the Lower Mainland show the heroin currently on the street can be two or three times more potent than usual.

Police say users should not shoot up alone and should lower their dose.

Two Abbotsford deaths have been confirmed to be cases of heroin overdose so far this year.

There have been similar deaths since April, but police cannot confirm they're due to the heroin until the investigations are complete. MATT KIELTYKA

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Terminal. Dispute

▶ Float planes at the newly opened Vancouver Harbour Flight Centre in Coal Harbour yesterday.

SAHARA GIANNONE/FOR METRO

Seaplane terminal's launch overcast

Vancouver's new $18.5-million seaplane terminal opened for business yesterday with two operators, Seair Seaplanes and Tofino Air. However, the new facility is not without controversy. B.C.'s largest floatplane company, Harbour Air, has not signed on to use it because of higher fees, which would be passed on to passengers. Harbour Air is operating at a temporary terminal nearby.

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Our officers loved it, too

Until now, Canucks fans have been keeping Vancouver police guessing.

Throughout the playoffs, post-game crowds were smaller than expected, said Chief Const. Jim Chu.

Tuesday night — following Vancouver's 3-2 overtime victory — the 20,000 people who took to Granville Mall "exceeded" his expectations.

What will happen in this final round? That's anyone's guess.

"The crowd (on Tuesday) was fantastic and it was a pleasure to police them," said Chu, adding the roughly 90 officers patrolling the streets arrested six people.

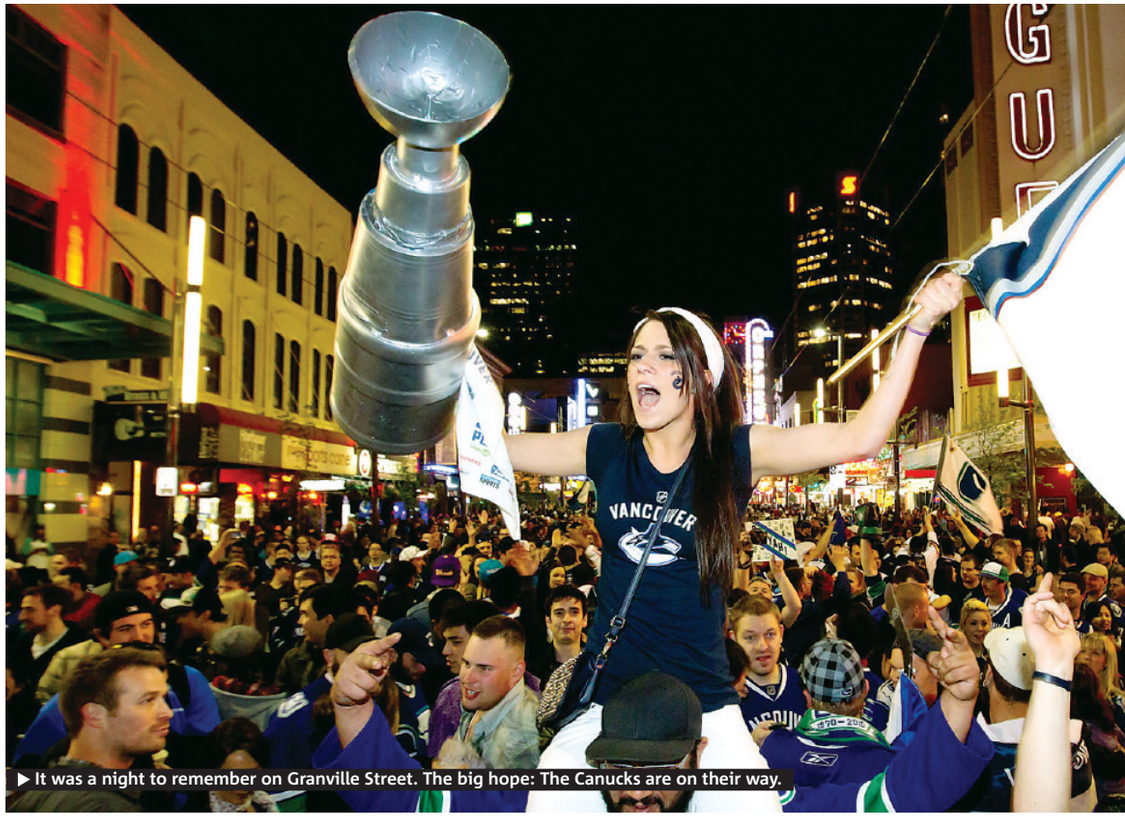
"We are certainly going to increase our presence (this next round), especially in the downtown area."

$500K
The cost of policing the final round is projected to be about $500,000.

He added the city's plan to create public space to watch games and celebrate — fingers crossed — Canucks victories is a great idea, and that cops enjoy interacting with people.

Chu said the lessons learned from policing the Olympics and the 1994 series — and its infamous riot — is to use eye contact, and be interactive and visible right from the start, rather than waiting for an issue to break out.

KRISTEN THOMPSON



▶ It was a night to remember on Granville Street. The big hope: The Canucks are on their way.

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DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canuck Nation erupts on Granville Street

Joyful crowds celebrate after a thrill-packed game The Vancouver Canucks advance to their dream — the NHL's Stanley Cup final

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Dave Preece woke up from a dream he thought was too good to be true.

The "towel power" man tweeted Tuesday morning before the start of Game 5 that the Canucks would win 3-2 in overtime.

He was also one of the thousands at Rogers Arena holding their breaths, waiting to see who would score the double-overtime goal.

"It was like I was reliving something that I saw first-hand 12 hours earlier," Preece said, after defenceman Kevin Bieksa played the hero and scored to finish the nail-biting game.

"It was really a surreal experience."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/FOR METRO

"The city is just living a dream right now. We're just hoping the dream ends a little bit different than it did 17 years ago"
DAVE PREECE

People were already walking out of the building, he added, but had to turn around quickly and head back to their seats.

"The city is just living a dream right now," Preece said. "We're just hoping the dream ends a little bit different than it did 17 years ago."

Some fans are willing to do anything and everything to get their hands on tickets for the Stanley Cup final.

"I am going to sell an organ … but not my liver, though, because it was highly damaged from (Tuesday's) game," said Coquitlam resident Mike Fraser.

WITH FILES FROM SAHARA GIANNONE

Don't miss it

- Hockey fans will be able to catch the away games of the Stanley Cup final on the huge screen above centre ice at Rogers Arena.

Metro hits the streets

We asked people for their reaction to the Canucks' triumph.

"I am happy for the city and all the Canucks fans."
— Jefferson Mesidor, Vancouver

"I'm extremely excited … but I am also nervous because there is always the chance of a major heartbreak."
— Josh Sorriano, Vancouver

"After all of these years of endlessly watching the Canucks, I am happy to finally see them go through and I think that this year they will win it."
— Roberto Phillips, Surrey

"I am very excited … I think everyone else is."
— Denise Luong, Vancouver

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Alaska 7-Night Cruise from USD $599 + taxes & fees USD $149
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ROGERS

News in brief

Rae named interim leader

LIBERALS. Bob Rae has been chosen as interim leader of the devastated federal Liberal party.

The Toronto MP and former Ontario NDP leader will fill the role until a permanent successor to Michael Ignatieff is elected. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Coyote cull

HALIFAX. More than 2,600 coyotes were killed during the first year of Nova Scotia's $20-per-pelt bounty hunt on the animals, about 900 more than the year before.

The animals have been showing up in more populated areas in recent years. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Layton admits he can't save per-vote party subsidies

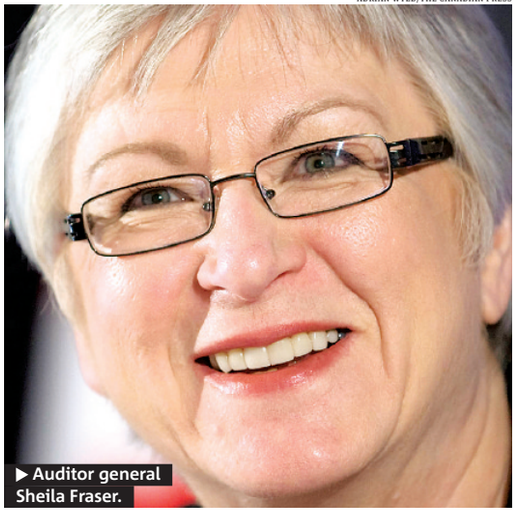
OTTAWA. Opposition Leader Jack Layton says a Conservative government plan to phase out $2-per-vote subsidies is wrong, but it's something political parties will have to live with. The Tories are intent on erasing the subsidies

starting with next month's budget, to be delivered June 6. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

AG out with a bang

Retiring auditor general Sheila Fraser delivers warnings Interim AG will be named next week

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Auditor general Sheila Fraser.

Auditor general Sheila Fraser delivered a farewell address yesterday in typical blunt-spoken fashion — warning government to start counting the costs of climate change and addressing the "quite tragic" living conditions of First Nations peoples.

Fraser's eventful, politically charged 10-year term as auditor general ends on Monday.

While the bespectacled, matronly 60-year-old said she believes retired auditors general should "sort of fade away," she made sure to leave with a bang.

In a luncheon speech to hundreds of Ottawa power brokers and bureaucrats, Fraser said Canada has to start measuring the massive, long-term financial hurdles of the future.

"With our aging population, the far-reaching impact of climate change and the need to replace much of our infrastructure, Canadians need to better understand the challenges ahead and how the public purse will be managed," she said.

Many other countries and several provinces, she said, provide long-term financial projections looking up to 75 years into the future. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Watchdog

- Auditor general Sheila Fraser is legendary for blowing the lid off the sponsorship scandal under the Chretien Liberals, famously stating in 2002 that civil servants "broke just about every rule in the book."
- She was the third "most trusted Canadian" in a Readers Digest poll published this month (behind David Suzuki and building contractor Mike Holmes).

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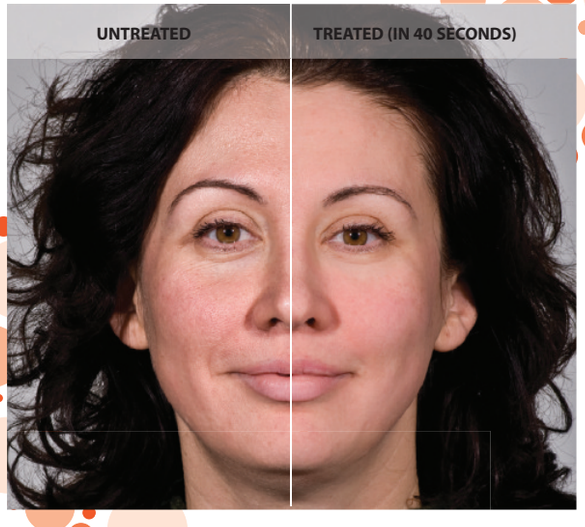

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Our smart bombs rain on Libya

Military says Canada's jets dropped 240 laser-guided missiles

Canadian warplanes have dropped 240 laser-guided bombs on Libyan targets since March 31, the military says.

But the Canadian Forces won't reveal two other key aspects of the country's mission in Libya.

The questions:

What's the cost to taxpayers of those 227-kilogram bombs?

What's the price tag for the Libya mission to date?

Brig.-Gen. Richard Blanchette revealed the number of bombs in the weekly briefing on Canada's participation in the NATO-led air campaign.

Just a week earlier, he deemed that information off limits for "operational security" reasons.

NDP Leader Jack Layton said the time has come for the government to come clean on the dirty details of Canada's participation in the United Nations-sanctioned international military campaign to protect civilians from attacks by their leader, Moammar Gadhafi.

Layton called yesterday for a full debate, with Canada's participation about to enter its third month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military silence

- The UN-backed mission began as an effort to protect civilians but has since morphed into a ferocious assault on Tripoli targets.
- The Canadian military won't say whether Canadian pilots are part of the stepped-up air offensive.

RODRIGO ABD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Machine guns hang from a tree as rebels rest in a makeshift military camp near Misrata, Libya, yesterday.

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G8 leaders warned: Don't restrict Internet freedom

More than 60 countries, and growing, have some form of Internet censorship in place: Activist

Internet activists and digital entrepreneurs warned yesterday that if global leaders attempt to limit access to the web, their restrictions will be bypassed and they will become irrelevant.

The stark message adds to growing resistance — from big-name companies like Google and Twitter to anonymous Internet vigilantes who have attacked government censorship networks — against creeping laws that might one day restrict services many users now take for granted.

The leaders of the Group of Eight most powerful countries begin meeting in France today to discuss issues of global concern in the wake of the Arab uprisings that have been described as the first Internet-enabled revolutions.

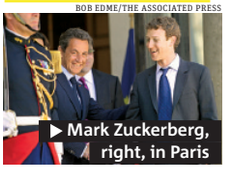
"G8 governments should say very clearly for once that Internet access is a fundamental human right," said Jean-Francois Julliard, who heads free speech group Reporters Without Borders.

Tony Wang, Twitter's general manager for Europe, said attempts to crack down on free expression are self-defeating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook or not

BOB EDME/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Mark Zuckerberg, right, in Paris

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has played down the importance of the social networking website for the popular revolutions that toppled presidents in Egypt and Tunisia.

- Zuckerberg says the wave of protests against autocratic governments sweeping through the Arab world could have been organized using other websites.
- The 27-year-old says "it would be extremely arrogant for any specific technology company to claim any meaningful role."

Heat. Wave

▶ A man bathes in water from a roadside pipe in Allahabad, India, yesterday. Several parts of India are reeling under heat wave conditions.

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keeping a cool head in India

Young dialing into smartphones

Younger users are driving the growing adoption of smartphones and mobile technology in Canada, suggests a report to be released today by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association.

The industry group commissioned a survey of more than 2,000 mobile users over a two-week period in March. While only 33 per cent of all those surveyed said they had a smartphone, 48 per cent of 18- to 34-year-old users had a smartphone and 55 per cent of 18- to 24-year-olds had already upgraded.

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CONVICTION UPHELD

Murderer loses appeal

A violent Alberta sex abuser turned murderer has failed to get his conviction overturned for killing a prostitute, trussing her body in metal wire and hauling it around in his pickup truck.

Alberta's Court of Appeal, in a written decision, rejected Thomas Svekla's argument that the trial judge made inferences and leaps of logic unsupported by the evidence to convict Svekla of the second-degree murder of Theresa Innes.

"The judge felt confident in making some strong fact findings about the accused's personality, credibility and motives."
STATEMENT FROM THREE APPEAL COURT JUDGES

The Appeal Court said yesterday the trial judge did not look at just one piece of the puzzle, but instead came to a proper conclusion after looking at all of the circumstantial evidence.

Had the trial been before a jury, would the jurors have drawn the same inferences, given the evidence the same weight and reached the same conclusions, a statement asked rhetorically.

"The answer to all those questions is yes."

The decision is a severe setback to Svekla's future freedom.

The Crown used the 2008 murder conviction to make a successful bid last year to have Svekla designated a dangerous offender. That status makes it unlikely that Svekla, who is serving a life sentence, will ever be released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slave Lake homecoming

Some fire refugees have been staying in hotels or at 1 of 3 evacuee centres

IAN JACKSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ All that remained of a house in Slave Lake, Alta., on May 16 was a set of steps.

Life is returning to the fire-scarred and empty streets of Slave Lake in northern Alberta.

Officials outlined a three-stage plan yesterday to send essential workers home first, followed by workers at major businesses. The rest of the 7,000 residents could end nearly two weeks of exile as early as tomorrow.

"It's very exciting for us," said Mayor Karina Pillay-Kinnee.

"It's probably precedent-setting and we couldn't have done it without all the resources, all the volunteers and the municipalities and the province. I've never seen anything like it."

Slave Lake was emptied by a raging wildlife that roared out of control May 15, stoked by winds gusting up to 100 kilometres an hour. Some people had mere minutes to collect their families, gather a lifetime's worth of memories, get in their cars and drive.

For many, it was just in time.

The fire devastated whole blocks of homes and businesses. Neighbourhoods were flattened. Houses burned to their foundations and yards reduced to ashy tundra. Hundreds of vehicles were incinerated. Businesses and government offices were reduced to tangled piles of rubble.

Officials have estimated about one-third of the town was damaged or destroyed.

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Bin Laden knew of Europe attack plot: Official

The United States has told Germany that evidence pulled from Osama bin Laden's hideout shows the terror chief was linked to a plot to attack targets in Europe last year, a senior German official told The Associated Press yesterday.

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Manslaughter charges for quake experts

Seven scientists and other experts were indicted on manslaughter charges yesterday for allegedly failing to sufficiently warn residents before a devastating earthquake that killed more than 300 people in central Italy in 2009.

Defence lawyers condemned the charges, saying it's impossible to predict earthquakes. Seismologists have long concurred, saying the technology doesn't exist to predict a quake and that no major temblor has ever been foretold.

Judge Giuseppe Romano Gargarella ordered the members of the national government's Great Risks commission, which evaluates potential for natural disasters, to go on trial in L'Aquila on Sept. 20.

Italian media quoted the judge as saying the defendants "gave inexact, incomplete and contradictory information" about smaller tremors felt by L'Aquila residents in the six months before the April 6, 2009, quake.

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Lease payment is $199 bi-weekly ($431 monthly) for 48 months. Down payment or equivalent trade of $2,450 required. Security deposit waived. $1,550 freight and air tax included. Option to purchase at lease end for $9,800. Payment is $431 monthly ($199 bi-weekly) for 48 months. Some conditions may apply. Lease a new 2011 Fiesta S Sedan/Fusion S for $14,449/$18,999 after Total Manufacturer Rebate of $0/$1,500 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax of $1,450/$1,550 but exclude variable charges of license, fuel fill, charge, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all other applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. **Or Cash Purchase an all-new 2012 Focus starting from $17,549 after Total Manufacturer Rebate of $0 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax of $1,450/$1,550 but exclude variable charges of license, fuel fill, charge, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all other applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ***Or Cash Purchase an all-new 2012 Focus starting from $17,549 after Total Manufacturer Rebate of $0 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax of $1,450/$1,550 but exclude variable charges of license, fuel fill, charge, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all other applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^Based on 2011 Ford Motor Company of Canada vehicles. Total of 5 Best-in-Class models: Fiesta (Subcompact Cars), Focus (Compact Cars), Fusion (Mid-size Cars), Taurus (Large Cars) and Mustang (Two-seater Cars). Fiesta is rated at 5.3 L/100 km (53 MPG) hwy, 7.1 L/100 km (40 MPG) city for 5-speed Manual transmission (i4 Manual) models for a maximum of [36]/[60] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (O&C) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for [36]/[60] months, monthly payment is [$833.33]/[$500.00]. cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $30,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. †Receive $500/$1,000/$1,500/$2,000 ($3,000/$3,500/$4,000/$4,500/$5,500/$6,000/$6,500/$7,000 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Focus S, Fiesta S, Escape I4 Manual/Mustang 2DR Coupe V6 Value Leader, Taurus SE, E-Series, F-150 Regular Cab XL 4X2, F-350 Chassis Cabs, F-450, F-550/Fusion S, Ranger Super Cab XL and Regular Cab/ Transit Connect (excluding electric), 2012 Mustang V6 Premium, Mustang GT 5.0L, Mustang Boss 302 & Medium Truck) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). The new vehicle must be delivered and/or factory-ordered from your participating Ford/Lincoln dealer within the Offer Period. Offer is only valid at participating dealers, is subject to vehicle availability, and may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. Only one (1) offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible vehicle sales per Costco Membership number. Offer is not transferable. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. See dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡$1000 Costco Incentive: Offer is only valid from April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with a Canadian Costco membership on or before March 31, 2011. Use this $1,000 Costco member offer towards the purchase or lease of a new 2011/2012 Ford/Lincoln vehicle (excluding Fiesta, Focus, Ranger, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302 & Medium Truck) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). The new vehicle must be delivered and/or factory-ordered from your participating Ford/Lincoln dealer within the Offer Period. Offer is only valid at participating dealers, is subject to vehicle availability, and may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. 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Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 Fiesta 1.6L I4 Automatic SFE Package: 6.8L/100km city and 4.9L/100km hwy based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Comparison data is based on Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) Subcompact Cars and R-Pack (R-Car (excluding Diesel) classifieds. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Models shown: 2011 Fiesta SE and S Sedan 1.6L I-4 engine with 5-speed Manual transmission): 7.1L/100km (40 MPG) City, 5.3L/100km (53 MPG) Hwy. ##Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2012 Focus SE Sedan Duratec 2.0L I-4 engine (6-i4 Manual) models for a maximum of [36]/[60] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (O&C) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for [36]/[60] months, monthly payment is [$833.33]/[$500.00]. cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $30,000. 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Models shown: 2011 Fiesta SE and S Sedan 1.6L I-4 engine with 5-speed Manual transmission): 7.1L/100km (40 MPG) City, 5.3L/100km (53 MPG) Hwy. ##Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2012 Focus SE Sedan Duratec 2.0L I-4 engine (6-i4 Manual) models for a maximum of [36]/[60] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (O&C) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for [36]/[60] months, monthly payment is [$833.33]/[$500.00]. cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $30,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax of $1,450/$1,550 but exclude variable charges of license, fuel fill, charge, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all other applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡Or Cash Purchase a new 2011 Fusion S for $18,999 after Total Manufacturer Rebate of $1,500 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax of $1,450/$1,550 but exclude variable charges of license, fuel fill, charge, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all other applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡‡Based on 2011 Ford Motor Company of Canada vehicles. 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Hope for more Joplin survivors

Rescue and recovery work in Joplin, Mo., was shadowed by uncertainty yesterday as rescue crews went back over areas that had already been searched and engineers entered a battered hospital where the tornado killed five to see if the building can be salvaged.

The U.S. National Weather Service said the mighty twister on Sunday was an EF5, the strongest rating assigned to tornadoes, with winds of more than 322 km/h.

The city manager said yesterday that 125 people died in the storm, raising by three the toll of the nation's deadliest single tornado since 1950. He said more than 900 people were injured.

Officials say they hope to find more survivors after two people were rescued from the rubble Tuesday.

Police required residents and workers to have city-issued permits in order to drive in damaged areas. Structural engineers went into the nine-storey St. John's Regional Medical Center to see whether it could be saved.

"It truly was like a bomb went off," chief executive Gary Pulsipher said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

100M

School officials have vowed to be ready for classes to start as scheduled on Aug. 17, despite having four schools destroyed and an estimated $100 million in damage.

▶ Darren Braker uses an axe to break through the floor of a doctor's office yesterday with the aid of Jesse Braker, centre, and Brent Luthi after a massive tornado passed through Joplin, Mo., killing more than 120 people. The young men were attempting to help a local family physician retrieve patient records from a basement office.

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JULIE DENESHA/GETTY IMAGES

Tornado warnings help prevent disaster

- Second powerful storm system this week descends on central U.S.
- 'Take cover now!' warned Oklahoma City TV forecasters

Thousands of Oklahoma City residents in the path of three approaching tornadoes benefited from good forecasts, luck and live television to avoid the kind of catastrophe that befell other U.S. cities.

Even though more than a dozen people died in the latest round of violent weather, schools and offices closed early, giving many families plenty of time to take shelter. And even stragglers were able to get to safety at the last minute because TV forecasters narrated the twisters' every turn.

"We live in Oklahoma and we don't mess around," Lori Jenkins of Guthrie said after emerging from a neighbour's storm shelter to find her carport crumpled and her home damaged.

The people of Oklahoma City, which has been struck by more tornadoes than any other U.S. city, knew the storms were coming. Anxiety was perhaps running higher than usual after last month's twister outbreak in the South that killed more than 300 people and a Sunday storm that killed at least 122 in Joplin, Mo.

Television helicopters broadcast live footage while the system approached the metropolitan area of 1.2-million people — calling out to specific communities like Piedmont to "Take cover now!"

Forecasters said another line of severe storms could sweep through the nation's midsection yesterday, mainly east of Oklahoma.

A tornado warning was briefly issued for downtown Kansas City, Mo., and at least two weak tornadoes touched down in or near the suburbs.

A few others were reported in Illinois. The storms were expected to move into western Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Back in the Oklahoma City area, at least nine people were killed, including a 15-month-old boy, and searchers were looking for his missing three-year-old brother.

Across the border in Arkansas, people in the tiny hamlet of Denning didn't have the luxury of an early warning. A tornado killed at least one person there. Storms left three others dead elsewhere in Arkansas and killed two in Kansas.

The storms arrived in Denning in the darkness, with a warning posted only about 10 minutes before a tornado nearly obliterated the town of 270.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope prays for Joplin

Pope Benedict XVI yesterday assured survivors of the massive tornado in Joplin, Mo., that he was close to them spiritually and praying for hope and strength for the homeless.

"The Holy Father has followed with deep concern the aftermath of the catastrophic tornado which struck Joplin on Sunday," read a text of a telegram sent to the local bishop in Missouri and made public by the Vatican.

Benedict said he was asking God to grant "eternal rest to the departed, consolation to the grieving, and strength and hope to the homeless and the injured."

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Protest. March

▶ Nepalese police officers stand behind a sign that reads "restricted area" during a march by Nepal's National Democratic Party toward the Constituent Assembly building in Katmandu yesterday.

GEMUNU AMARASINGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extension rejected

Nepal's pro-monarch National Democratic Party is demanding that the term of the Constituent Assembly not be extended and fresh elections be held.

Kids killed in Syrian crackdown?

Opposition group identifies one child who died under 'severe torture'

More than 25 children, some of them tortured, are among the victims of the Syrian government's deadly crackdown on an uprising that has killed more than 1,000 people over the past two months, an opposition group said yesterday.

The Local Co-ordination Committees in Syria, which helps organize the protests against President Bashar Assad, identified the children and the circumstances of their death. Syria has blocked media access in the country, making it impossible to verify the reports independently.

The children ranged in age from five to 17. Many appeared to have been killed in crossfire, such as Mahmood Alkadree, 12, who was struck by four bullets when he went out to buy bread for his family in the Damascus suburb of Douma, the statement said.

The body of 15-year-old Ahmad Radwan was found in the orchards of the coastal town of Banias, shot once in the stomach and once in the chest.

Majd Ibrahim Alrfaee, a seven-year-old girl from the southern province of Daraa, died from a gunshot to the abdomen, the report said.

The statement said that 13-year-old Saleh Ahmad Alkhateeb was kidnapped by security forces on April 29 in Daraa, only to be found dead the next day "covered with the effects of severe torture."

Assad appears determined to crush the revolt, which is posing the most serious challenge to his family's 40-year ruling dynasty.

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Shooting suspect ruled mentally unfit for trial

- Arizona rampage wounded U.S. congresswoman and killed 6 others
- Loughner's 'angry' outburst in court results in officials dragging him out

U.S. federal marshals had to drag the man accused of wounding Representative Gabrielle Giffords in a deadly rampage screaming out of a packed federal courtroom yesterday. Minutes later, Jared Lee Loughner watched over a closed-circuit TV as U.S. District Judge Larry Burns declared him incompetent to stand trial.

Mental-health experts concluded that the 22-year-old college dropout suffers from schizophrenia.

Burns ordered Loughner to a federal facility in Missouri for up to four months, where doctors will try to give him enough treatment to bring him to a point where he understands the case against him.

"You don't have to be a psychiatrist to know that the boy is disturbed," said Eric Fuller, who was shot in the knee and the back during the Jan. 8 shooting spree at a Giffords event outside a Tucson, Ariz., supermarket. Fuller said he wouldn't be bothered if Loughner spends the rest of his life in a mental-health facility.

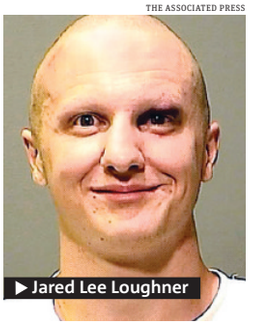
"Hinckley has been gone for forever," Fuller said, referring to John Hinckley Jr., who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan 30 years ago and has since been committed to a psychiatric hospital.

Loughner spent five weeks at the federal facility in Springfield, Mo., where he was examined by a psychologist and psychiatrist; neither thought Loughner was faking his mental-health problems. Loughner has pleaded not guilty to 49 federal charges stemming from the shooting at a meet-and-greet event that wounded Giffords and 12 others, and killed six people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Thank you for the freak show. She died in front of me."

JARED LEE LOUGHNER'S LOUD BUT INDISTINCT WORDS HEARD IN COURT

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Jared Lee Loughner

CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I have a stunning secret to reveal about cars and bicycles: *They're controlled by people.*

Weird, huh? It sounds Soylent Green, but it's true. If you look closely and aren't blinded by anger, you might even see a "cyclist" or "driver" yourself.

This little-known nugget must be revealed because I have bought a bicycle. I haven't ridden it yet because the shop is adding all the doodads needed in the modern urban cycling environment — pre-made legal forms, James Bond-style nail strip, basket with a flower on the front — but soon I'll be a cyclist.

In other words, I'm about to get a new perspective on the long-running feud that is Cars vs. Bikes. (Note the dehumanifying.)

What has always amazed me about this conflict is that the vast majority of people have both biked and driven cars. Everybody is on both sides. Yet to hear the "discussion" you would assume it was two different species that only ever contact each other on North America's roadways.

"My theory is that each group has an Idiot Quotient that ends up dominating the discussion; we literally remember the hits and forget the misses."

Why? My theory is that each group has an Idiot Quotient that ends up dominating the discussion; we literally remember the hits and forget the misses.

The worst cyclists, for instance, seem to compensate for their small carbon footprint by taking up as much roadway as possible. They also have a sort of persecution complex, where they see every open car door as an attempt to injure. And while I have some tolerance for bikes on sidewalks, it's unacceptable to barrel down a sidewalk like Fred Flintstone stuck in his runaway Stoneway piano yelling, "Make way!"

The worst drivers, meanwhile, start complaining about The War on the Car if anything slows them down, including inertia. Never mind that they can get home faster than any human in history. If a Star Trek transporter beam existed and a three-minute delay could save the Alpha Quadrant, people would rant about The War on the Beam and how it's their right to use the fastest, space-time continuum-tearingest transporter available.

So I get it: Some of the anger on both sides is justified. But as someone with both a driver's licence and a bicycle, I say it's time for a new era.

After all, are we not human? If you scratch our vehicles, do we not curse and try to remove it with our thumb? If you wrong us, shall we not give you the finger and say, "Can you believe that guy?"

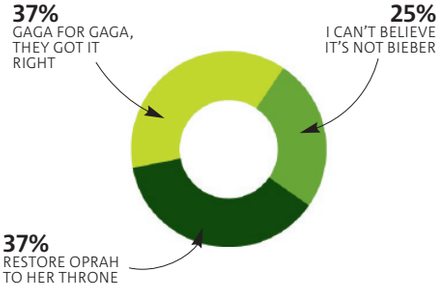
We must put aside our differences, stop stereotyping each other and remember our shared, common goal: Hatred of pedestrians. Those people are idiots, am I right?

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

metro life panel

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

What do you think of Lady Gaga dethroning Oprah Winfrey as the most powerful celebrity in the world, according to Forbes?



Local tweets

- **@c1961g:** Has anyone suggested lighting the Olympic torch during the Finals? It would be so cool and iconic! #Canucks
- **@NielsVeldhuis:** BC #HST changes: rate down to 10% by 2014, one-time payment to families of $175/kid and business tax up to 12% from 10%. Good, bad, ugly
- **@bcrailtrial:** Some business backlash but #hst announcement fix is game changer that Premier Christy Clark wanted. Win on #hst means fall elxn. #bcpoli
- **@MissYasminaP:** Between the not so pleasant spring weather, and hockey still ongoing, no wonder why it still feels like February in #Vancouver.
- **@two_shades_deep:** The Sedin brothers are scarier than the twins in "The Shining." #canucks #terror
- **@Alyssa_Milano:** Go #Canucks! Go! #NHL
- **@Bri_McD:** still in awe that the @VanCanucks won last night and are the Western Conference Champs and off to the Stanley Cup FINALS!!! Go #Canucks Go!

Worth mentioning

LONDON. Canada has cracked the top 10 in a global security assessment that ranks countries based on how peaceful they are.

The Global Peace Index ranked Canada eighth out of 153 countries, a six-spot jump over last year.

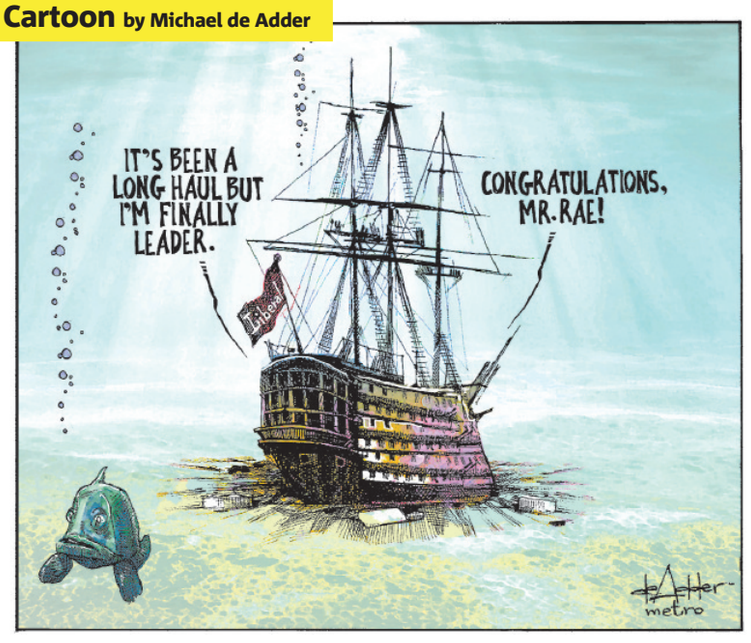
The index, produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), suggests North America overall has improved slightly thanks in part to Canada's rise in the rankings. The United States was 82nd, compared to 85th last year. The index says if the U.S. reduced its violent crime rates to that of Canada's, the U.S. economy and its state governments could save billions of dollars on correctional services, health care and lost tax revenue.

Iceland regained the top spot after slipping in last year's index following violent demonstrations related to the collapse of its financial system, while Libya tumbled 83 spots to 143 in the largest drop in the index's history.

Overall, the index found the world is less peaceful for the third straight year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Margaritaville has moved to a Mexican prison

Some prisoners learn woodworking or licence-plate making. But bartending?

A prison workshop in northern Mexico where inmates were supposed to be learning trades was found to contain a bar behind bars — complete with beer, vodka, tequila and billiard tables.

Federal police and local authorities discovered the bar Monday at a minimum-security prison in the northern state of Chihuahua, the state attorney general's office said in a statement.

Seized from the site were 20 bottles of vodka, 12 bottles of tequila, and 200 beer cans. Police also found three guns, 20 cellphones, 180 individual doses of marijuana and 90 doses of heroin.

The prison's deputy director was fired yesterday and prison guards are under investigation, said Jorge Chaires, a spokesman for the state's prosecutor for prisons.

Also yesterday, guards conducting a routine check at a prison in the northern state of Tamaulipas discovered 17 inmates missing, the state's Public Safety Department said in a statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hacking victims blasé with Sony

Little fallout expected among people Complaints centre on entertainment giant's communication

David Campbell found out yesterday morning he was one of 2,000 Sony Ericsson customers from Canada whose personal data had been stolen and posted online for anyone to see.

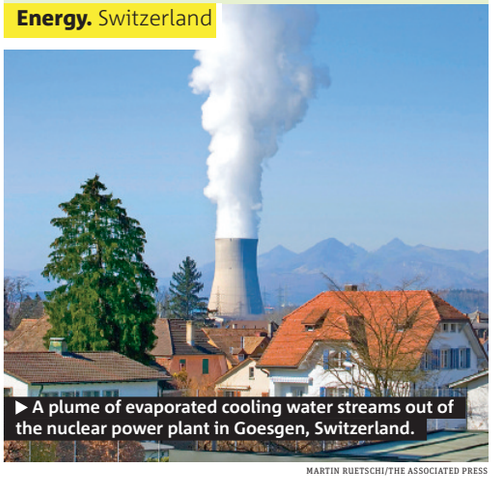
He's been through a case of online fraud before and is resigned to the fact that information stored on the web is at risk. So he wasn't overly concerned to learn that his name and email were being shared by hackers. But he doesn't appreciate that Sony didn't alert him to the latest security breach to hit the entertainment giant.

"I guess (the data breach) is disappointing but in this modern day you'd probably be a little foolish to think that anything's safe," said Campbell, who works with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

Sony has been hit with a number of hacker attacks in recent weeks, the most notable coming last month and affecting more than 100-million accounts of PlayStation Network and Qriocity users. Names, birth dates, email addresses and log-ins were compromised. The company said in a statement issued yesterday that hackers on Sony Ericsson's Canadian site only accessed email addresses and encrypted passwords.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Energy. Switzerland



▶ A plume of evaporated cooling water streams out of the nuclear power plant in Goesgen, Switzerland.

MARTIN RUETSCHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swiss mull nuclear plan

The Swiss cabinet yesterday called for the decommissioning of the country's five nuclear power reactors and new energy sources to replace them.

Molson dynasty rules beer giant again

A seventh generation of the Molson family is taking the helm of Molson Coors as the brewer seeks to extend its global reach into emerging countries.

Andrew Molson, 43, becomes chairperson today, replacing Peter Coors as part of the biennial shift between the beer company's founding families.

The change comes as Molson celebrates its 225th anniversary of its entry into the Canadian beer industry.

Molson told shareholders yesterday the company plans to grow international sales of its existing Coors Light, Carling and Molson Canadian brands and pursue acquisitions.

Its international division grew beer volume by 27 per cent in 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BARGAINING TABLE

Post office won't shut this week

Canada Post said yesterday there is enough time to negotiate a "fair and reasonable" settlement with postal workers since there's no potential for a strike this week.

Both sides were back at the table yesterday to continue negotiations aimed avoiding a labour disruption.

"With no potential for a strike this week, there is plenty of time to negotiate a fair and reasonable deal," Canada Post said in a statement.

Under labour laws, each side has to give 72 hours' notice before beginning a strike or lockout.

Canada Post rejected its union's latest contract proposal Tuesday, saying the offer would increase labour costs by $1.4 billion but then made a counter-proposal.

"Even with a continued decline in mail volumes and a $3-billion pension solvency deficit, Canada Post has tabled a competitive counter-offer to CUPW that gives employees better wages and protects their pensions and job security," the Crown corporation said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 156.35 (13,751.47)	– 0.19¢ 102.26¢ US
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ $1.73 $101.32 US	1,000 cu ft $4.423 (+ 3.2¢)
	Gold contracts $3.40 US (+ $1,526.70)

Abrupt exit for Tim Hortons CEO

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Tim Hortons ex-president and CEO Donald Schroeder.

Tim Hortons is hiring — Canada's No. 1 coffee chain is looking for a new leader after the abrupt departure of its CEO. The company announced yesterday that Don Schroeder, 65, no longer serves as president and CEO after three years at the helm and two decades as an employee.

Tim Hortons' board said it believes a change at the top at this time is best for the company. In the meantime, executive chairman Paul House, who has previously held the position of president and CEO, will take on the role on an interim basis.

The board said it was already engaged in comprehensive succession planning for the CEO position as part of its strategic planning.

Tim Hortons did not say why Schroeder was leaving so suddenly, but Brian Yarbrough, a retail analyst at Edward Jones in St. Louis, believes the fact that it could not reach a "transitional arrangement" is key.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro now on Android for readers

Metro has become the first Canadian newspaper to launch a free downloadable Android application to offer access to Metro content on the go. The app detects which of Metro's eight Canadian cities you are in.

If you have an Android smart phone and have been itching for a news application, then your wait is over.

METRO

Blockbuster brand plays starring role

Despite hard times, Blockbuster Canada's brand power could make it an attractive acquisition target, even as it closes stores while Canadians increasingly turn to new technology to watch movies.

But industry experts say stores would need to sell a wider variety of merchandise if they want to survive long term. Dish Network bought the U.S. locations.

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Performer's music connects with kids

Music with Marnie performs as part of the annual Vancouver International Children's Festival

SUBMITTED

Performer Marnie Grey

BACKSTAGE PASS

GRAEME MCRANOR
METRO VANCOUVER

In the late '90s, when local children's performer Marnie Grey still worked as an early childhood educator, she often used music to comfort and inspire her kids.

Realizing that music was facilitating some of their best connections, Grey developed a series of unique music and movement classes, which proved to be some of the most popular preschool and toddler classes around.

Then she released her debut album, Music with Marnie, in 2001. Her first live gig drew 500 kids.

It's no surprise then that she switched to full-time performing and hasn't looked back, releasing another three albums and playing for pint-sized fans across the land.

She's been a regular at the Vancouver International Children's Festival too, and returns with her band for the 34th annual installment, which kicks off Monday at its new location on Granville Island.

"We'll be singing songs from our latest CD, Super Kids," she says. "The theatrics of our show and interaction with the crowd is ever-changing as so much of our energy is fed off of the enthusiasm, diversity and response of the crowd."

Plenty of other inspirational and colourful characters abound, including Australian acrobatic troupe Circa, who will be performing their hit show 46 Circus Acts in 45 Minutes; Step Afrika!, which features kicks, stomps, percussion and more; and innovative Italian theatre company TPO, who will perform Farfalle, a show that uses dance to trace the life cycle of a butterfly.

The festival runs until June 5. For ticket prices and more information about the shows, visit childrensfestival.ca.

What's going on

- **The Rapture** might have come and gone — RIP Macho Man Randy Savage — but that doesn't mean you don't have anything to look forward to. Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings kick off the summer concert season tomorrow night at the Malkin Bowl. Tickets at livenation.com. Show starts at 7:00 p.m.
- **Let's keep** the Malkin theme going, shall we? Sam Roberts performs with his band Saturday night in support of their latest album, Collider, which came out earlier this month. Jets Overhead opens. Tickets available at livenation.com. Show starts at 7:00 p.m.

No more reality TV: Kirstie Alley

Has plans to take on a movie role
Considering TV series, Broadway

CHARLES SYKES/AP PHOTO

Dancing with the Stars finalist Kirstie Alley.

After coming in second on Dancing With the Stars, Kirstie Alley says she's done with reality TV.

The 60-year-old actress said Tuesday that her time on Dancing has motivated her to return to acting with new focus and determination.

She said learning to dance on the hit show "reinspired me with all the things that I've had great success with already and sort of got complacent about."

Alley plans to take on a movie role next month. She's also looking for a new TV series and is considering Broadway.

She confessed she was sad that she and partner Maksim Chmerkovskiy didn't win Dancing. Characterizing herself as "not the average cupcake," she said her partner deserved kudos for making the oldest and heaviest contestant this season into a championship dancer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 scene

Wedding bells

Another hoops star will join the Kardashian clan. People magazine reported yesterday that reality star Kim Kardashian is engaged to her boyfriend of six months, New Jersey Nets forward Kris Humphries.

Sister Khloe Kardashian and Los Angeles Laker Lamar Odom were married in 2009.

Humphries, 26, gave Kardashian, 30, a 20.5-carat Lorraine Schwartz diamond ring.

The family stars in the E! reality show Keeping Up With the Kardashians, and spinoffs including Khloe and Lamar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stephen King says creative differences are solved, musical written with Mellencamp is ready. Scan code for story.

Oprah says her goodbyes

Oprah Winfrey walked on stage for her talk show finale yesterday to a standing ovation from her studio audience before thanking her viewers for watching for a quarter of a century.

"Twenty-five years and I'm still saying 'Thank you America,"' Winfrey said. "Thank you so much. There are no words to match this moment."

Winfrey told them that sometimes she was a teacher, but more often her viewers taught her. She called the episode her "last class."

The show's first moment was a clip of Winfrey's first show. She taped the last episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show on Tuesday in Chicago.

Winfrey was the only person on stage with little background music and very short flashback clips.

"When she came out, her appearance, the way she stepped on stage and the message she brought about finding yourself, your purpose," said audience member Wanda Nash, 47, of Chicago, an executive assistant and foster parent. "It was all about Oprah."

Winfrey kissed and hugged her longtime partner, Stedman Graham, and made her way through the halls of Harpo Studios, saying goodbye to her staff, audience members said.

Winfrey announced in November 2009 that she would end her popular talk show after 25 years.

Tuesday's taping came a week after Hollywood's A-list and 13,000 fans bid Winfrey farewell during a double-episode extravaganza at Chicago's United Center. They were just a few of the approximately 30,000 guests on the show over 25 years.

The bare-bones final taping had its share of celebrities in the audience including Tyler Perry, Maria Shriver, Suze Orman and Cicely Tyson, but none of them joined Winfrey on stage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL BEATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Kimberly Adams of Chicago stands outside Harpo Studios before the final taping of The Oprah Winfrey Show in Chicago, Tuesday. The finale aired yesterday.

Comedians react

Many comedians turned to social media to contemplate a post-Oprah world. Among the notable comments made on Twitter were these:

- "Apparently Oprah is responsible for life on our planet as we know it." - Kevin Nealon.
- "I miss both Oprah and Osama. Is there a way to pair them up for something?" - Michael Ian Black.
- "Oprah Winfrey is so powerful that she had the Rapture postponed until after her final show airs." - Joan Rivers.
- "It seems so unfair! Without Oprah, how are publishers going to continue their cross-fingers/hope-to-win-the-lottery business plan?" - John Hodgman.
- "Jesus will probably be the surprise guest. She got him started." - Paula Poundstone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movie reviews See it twice | See it now | Worth watching | Yawn | Don't bother

Kung Fu Panda kicks but again

Kung Fu Panda 2
Genre: Animation
Director: Jennifer Yuh Nelson
Stars: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Gary Oldman

There's no reason for movies about nauseatingly cute CGI animals battling in kung fu to be as entertaining as the Kung Fu Panda series, but Dreamworks Animation has stumbled onto a magic formula that's now produced a sequel on par with the original.

Kung Fu Panda 2 returns to Jack Black's big bellied panda who must now use the skills he acquired in the first film to take on a devious peacock (Gary Oldman) who plans to take over China and destroy kung fu, while also trying to find his real parents.

A nice little message about letting go of the past is slipped in amongst an endlessly entertaining series of slapstick fight sequences.

The balance between thrills, humour, and heart feels even more effective in Jennifer Yuh Nelson's sequel, but don't expect the depth of a Pixar movie. The Kung Fu Panda series is more about giddy entertainment than anything else and it's hard to imagine any child watching the proceedings without a big dopey grin on their face (the same could probably be said about the adults accompanying them).

Only a sequel-bating final scene rings false, but after a second chapter this enjoyable, Dreamworks has earned a third movie

PHIL BROWN

Second time, not quite as good as first

The Hangover: Part II
Genre: Comedy
Director: Todd Phillips
Stars: Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms

Todd Philips' blockbuster The Hangover most definitely captured lightning in a bottle. But the clever premise that made stars out of Bradley Cooper and Zach Galifianakis also shows that unfortunately lightning rarely strikes twice.

It's not that The Hangover: Part II isn't without its funny moments. From a scene-stealing capuchin monkey to a revealing encounter involving transvestites in a seedy Bangkok strip club, there are plenty of laughs. But because Philips closely copies the structure of the 2009 hit, the gags are less surprising and the mystery-formula plot less effective.

Due to its nature, there's no point in summarizing plot specifics other than to say the boys head to Thailand for Stu's (Ed Helms) upcoming wedding and end up losing the bride's young brother, crossing paths with a gangster (Paul Giamatti) and taking guardianship of an old monk. Even if those gags don't resonate as much as the original film, fans should still be entertained enough living through another Hangover.

STEVE GOW

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FOR THURS., MAY. 26 FOR MOVIES OPENING THAT DAY. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 7:15-9:40

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-9:55
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 1-3-5-7:10-9:20

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 5:20-8:15

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 7:15-9:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 1-4-7-9:30
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 7-7:40-9:40-10:10

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 6:30-9:10
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 7-9:40

RICHMOND

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 12:30-1-1:30-3:30-4-4:30-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10-10:30
Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 12:45-3:30-6:45-9:15
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 11:35-2-4:45-7:15-9:45

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 4:30-6-8:25-10:10

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 1:10-4:10-7:45-10:25 Thu 12:20-3-7:05-9:35
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 12:10-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:45

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 12:10-1:10-1:30-2:45-4:10-4:25-5:30-7:15-7:45-8:10-10:10:30-11
Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 1:40-4:20-7:05-9:30
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 12:35-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 7

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 1:1:45-3:45-4:45-7:15-8:10-10:40
Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 1:15-4-6:30-9:15
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 3:45-4:30-5:7-7:30-9-9:45-10:15
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 4:15-6:30-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterionthetres.com

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 7:30-9:40

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

The Hangover Part II (18A) Thu 3:45-4:15-4:45-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45
Kung Fu Panda 2 (G) Thu 4:50-7:20-9:50
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (G) Thu 3:15-6-8:30

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Lady Gaga is using new ways to promote her new album.

Gaga builds hype for new album

The release of a pop star's album usually comes with the typical cross-marketing splash — strategic magazine covers, a few major TV appearances, and perhaps a cosmetics or fashion deal to remind the public a new project awaits.

Yet the social media-powered blitz connected to this week's drop of Lady Gaga's third album, Born This Way, is bordering on epic, with partnerships ranging from Starbucks to FarmVille, and virtual give-aways of the album's 17 tracks. It also represents the kind of bold, new business model that could help rejuvenate a deflated music industry.

Gaga already had a slew of magazine covers, from Rolling Stone to Vogue, and appeared on every high profile show, from Oprah Winfrey to American Idol to Saturday Night Live, as well as her own HBO concert special.

But she hasn't stopped there. Starbucks — typically home to easy-on-the-ears artists like Emmylou Harris — is selling her album as well as launching a "digital scavenger hunt" for Gaga-inspired goods; Google Chrome debuted a commercial with Gaga with a track from the album; the online fashion outlet Gilt Groupe partnered with Gaga to offer Gaga-inspired clothing and VIP performances; Best Buy is giving away the album to anyone who purchases a mobile phone with a contract; and Zynga, creator of the popular online game FarmVille, created GagaVille, which allowed fans access to exclusive Gaga songs.

As if that wasn't enough, on Monday, Amazon.com sold Born This Way for just 99 cents as a promotion for their new music cloud service, creating a demand so strong it disrupted the online retailing giant's servers for a short time.

And it looks like the campaigns are paying off: Gaga's album is estimated to sell anywhere between a half-million to a million copies when the top album charts are revealed next week.

"It was really about expanding the distribution on this album and going into as many non-traditional retail partnerships and non-traditional marketing partnerships as possible," Gaga's manager, Troy Carter, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "Just with the diminishing music labels, you want to find quality partners where you know you can reach new audiences and being able to push boundaries as well."

"I've never seen anything as powerful as when Gaga hits her social media channels compared to anyone else that we've worked with," Tim O'Brien, vice-president of business development at Disney Mobile. "I've never seen anything like it in terms of how she's utilizing social media."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Editor Gaga

Metro. On Tuesday, May 17, Lady Gaga served as global guest editor-in-chief for Metro papers across the world, including the nine Metro's in Canada. If you missed that edition, go to metronews.ca to catch up.

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Complx5
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Hot Buy: $49.99
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Weight Loss System
Vitapak
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Hot Buy: $49.99
Save: $33.00

Renew Life
Cleanse Smart
Cleansing
30 days - Reg. $35.99
Hot Buy: $24.99
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Testosterone Booster
90 capsules - Reg. $32.49
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Save: $12.50

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Putting the hammer down on kissing Leo

J. Edgar star opens up about his new make out scene with co-star DiCaprio

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Armie Hammer

For his latest film, J. Edgar, Social Network star Armie Hammer faced a new challenge: making out with Leonardo DiCaprio.

"It's the same kind of thing as if you walk onto a set and they hand you a machine gun and (say), 'Shoot this like you know what you're doing.' — You kind of have to go, 'OK, I know what I'm doing,' and you've just got to go for it," Hammer tells Just Jared.

"It wasn't weird — I have never kissed a guy — it's not something I'm going to do in my private life, but at the end of it I was, like, man, there is a lot of weird hype."

One person who is definitely OK with Hammer and DiCaprio locking lips is Hammer's wife, Elizabeth Chambers.

"When I signed on to do the movie, she was thrilled that I just didn't have to kiss another woman," Hammer says of her reaction. METRO

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Talking points

Shriver hires private eye to look at some of the rumours

MORE CHILDREN? Maria Shriver will likely be filing for divorce by the end of the week, according to Entertainment Tonight.

And earlier this week, Radar Online reports, the former California first lady is said to have hired a private investigator to dig into husband Arnold Schwarzenegger's past.

"The investigator will likely look into the claims that he fathered multiple children, outside their marriage," a source says. "Maria has heard the rumors and she wants to find out one way or another, if those claims are true."

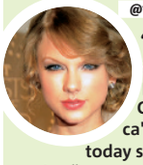
Another person completely caught off guard by news of Arnold Schwarzenegger's love child with former employee Mildred Baena is her ex-husband, Rogelio Baena, who tells Entertainment Tonight he thought the child was his and only learned the truth a week ago. METRO

Celebrity tweets

We all end up on twitter. Welcome!

@GarryShandling

@taylorswift13


"It's the guy who played Chew-baca's birthday today so we made a cake."

@Pink

"this baby just drop kicked me in the ribs. fight fair!"

@joelmchale

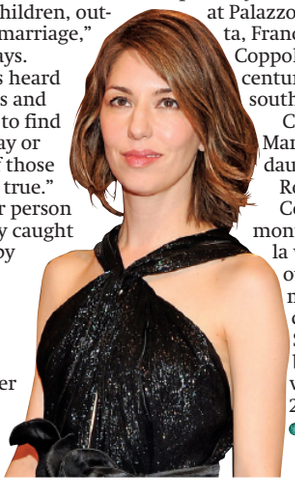
"Saw @johnlegend destroy at the Sony TV event tonight. His voice melted three women that were standing too close. So good."

Coppola getting ready to marry

KISS THE RING? Sofia Coppola is planning to marry her longtime boyfriend and the father of her children, French rocker Thomas Mars, according to Us Weekly.

The happy couple will reportedly exchange vows at Palazzo Margherita, Francis Ford Coppola's 19th century villa in southern Italy.

Coppola and Mars have two daughters: Romy, 4, and Cosima, 23 months. Coppola was previously married to director Spike Jonze, but they divorced in 2003. METRO



Going buck Wilde with Cooper

Just a month after being spotted out with Justin Timberlake, recently divorced Olivia Wilde is reportedly dating Bradley Cooper, according to Life & Style.

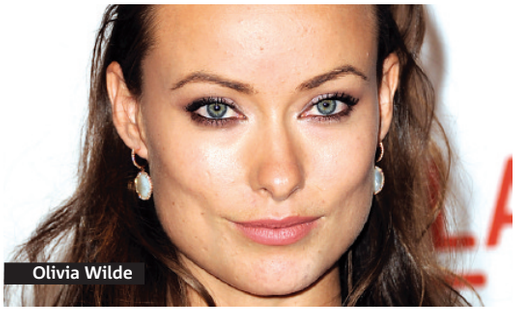
"Olivia was Bradley's date," a source says of the two, who attended the Hangover Part II premiere party in New York together.

"He was always taking her hand or putting his hand on her lower back, it was really sweet. He took care of her all night."

Other attendees of the party concurred with that assessment.

"They were definitely together," adds another source.

"They seemed really comfortable with each other." METRO


Olivia Wilde

3 life

Gay rights

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Anna Wintour

In a human rights campaign video, the Vogue Editor-in-Chief states, "I'm Anna Wintour in support for marriage equality. As far as I'm concerned, having the right to say, 'I do' is as fundamental as the right to vote."

The 61-year-old joins other celebrities supporting the campaign, including Julianne Moore, Marc Jacobs, and Michael Kors among others.

RICHARD PECKETT

Michelle Obama and Duchess of Cambridge bring high style to Buckingham Palace.

ALEJANDRO INGELMO.

FASHION'S FUTURE SOLE STAR

▶ Alejandro Ingelmo is a fourth generation shoe maker who, for the second time, is up for a prestigious CFDA award ▶ He likes sci-fi and hates kitten heels.

KENYA HUNT
METRO WORLD NEWS

It's warm and humid outside and his London showroom doesn't have air conditioning.

But somehow Alejandro Ingelmo manages to look cool, clean and crisp in his white button-down shirt and tie as he walks me through his collection.

His classic, slightly restrained, retro appearance is a bit deceptive, though. This is a man who makes shoes that ooze sex of the futuristic, rock and roll variety and appeal to mega-celebrities like Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Madonna and Justin Timberlake.

Women who frequent the mecca that is his New York store have claimed that his tall stilettos elicit visceral reactions like shortness of breath and heart palpitations. Lucky for you, his e-commerce shop will launch in a few weeks.

Has the fact that you come from such a long line of shoe cobblers helped your career at all?

Well I think I had a harder time. I went to Parsons and went in a totally different direction from my family. I didn't get any help from them. My dad is proud of me, but he doesn't understand what I do at all [laughs].

Are there any common footwear faux pas that you see on the street that make you wince?

I hate those platform shoes with the see-saw on the bottom. What are they called? They're supposed to get rid of cellulite.

But what's the point of those things? They're so bad, and they're everywhere. And I know you girls like them, but Uggs are just Ugg-ly, OK?

For the record, I'm with you on the Uggs. Do you design according to what the trends are?

Not really, although I know that there are some people who probably wish I would.

Are there any trends that you feel especially excited or bummed out about now?

I really wasn't into the kitten heel at all. I'm like, either make the effort and commit yourself to the high heel or just wear flats.

Learn how to walk in heels or just wear flats, you know? The kitten heel is just not that sexy.

Do you think that shoes should make a woman look sexy?

I like for my shoes to make a woman not only feel sexy, but confident and strong.

And it's the same with my men's shoes. When I wear the shoes, I want to feel sexy in them. I think we all want that.

Speaking of men's, you have a huge sneaker pimps following. The Tron style is especially hot right now. Are you a big sci-fi fan?

Oh yeah. I had the Tron Atari game when I was young.

It's funny because when I opened my store in New York, I thought I'd have all women's and just a little section of men's shoes. But now it's half women's and half men's. It's fun designing for both.

What are some common mistakes that you see women make when they purchase and wear heels?

Well, a lot of them should practice first. Don't buy more height than you can handle. When a woman goes to the store, she should ask about the pitch of the shoe.

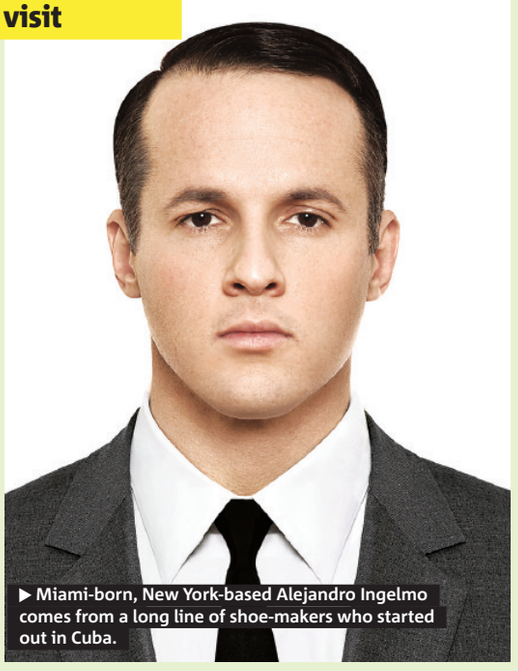
That's something that most women don't think to do. But that's what really determines how high the shoe is, it's not so much about the heel. It's all about what's happening inside the shoe.

And make sure that the shoe can hold your foot in.

You don't want to be walking down the street with your toe slipping out. I think shoes are like clothes; you want to show just the right amount.

When a toe hangs out of the shoe, that's like the footwear equivalent of bad cleavage.

Studio visit



▶ Miami-born, New York-based Alejandro Ingelmo comes from a long line of shoe-makers who started out in Cuba.

Flirty, fit and fabulous

THE KIT

Fit Kit Upgrade

If you're lugging toiletries to the gym in a Ziplock, the Lululemon Gym Essentials Kit is for you. It features removable Velcro pouches to keep wet and dry separate (because leaky shampoo bottles and eye makeup don't mix) and a retractable hook for easy locker latching; $38, lululemon.com.

Fit At Any Age

At 40, Tosca Reno was an overweight, single mother who always put herself last.

Now 51, she's a sought-after healthy-living expert and all-around inspiration.

Her latest book, Your Best Body Now: Look and Feel Fabulous at Any Age the Eat-Clean Way, reveals all her healthy-eating strategies, body-sculpting workouts and amazing recipes; $23, eHarlequin.com.

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When style gets swapped

Can't find what you want in your closet? Browse through your friend's

The beginning of a new year was to mark the end of closet clutter for Marci O'Connor.

The Quebec-based mother of two made a resolution to declutter. Having gone through a range of sizes due to weight fluctuations, O'Connor decided to finally get rid of all the garments that no longer fit and were taking up precious real estate in her closet.

But she didn't toss her unwanted items – she took them to her Facebook page.

O'Connor posted photos and descriptions of various items including dresses worn to weddings, unworn shoes as well as pants, shirts and sweaters, offering friends a chance to take their pick and encouraging others seeking to clear out their closet to follow suit.

"The first item was a black leather bag from Rudsak. I think that lasted 20 minutes," she recalled in an interview from Otterburn Park, Que., east of Montreal.

It wasn't long before word of the swap spread among other online users.

GRAHAM HUGHES/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I created a Facebook page just so we could contain it and set up a couple of guidelines and rules and then it exploded," said O'Connor. "I had people from many places throughout North America and even some Europeans who asked if they could join in."

As founder of Suzieswapper, O'Connor, 40, has established a dedicated space for women seeking to talk swap and exchange clothing for free. She estimates some 1,500 swaps have taken place since its launch last year.

Clothing swaps have long appealed to budget-conscious fashionistas seeking stylish new finds for little to no money. But online sites devoted to such trades are helping widen the availability and inventory of preloved goods.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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1 BURT'S BEES

Colour Keeper Green Tea & Fennel Seed Shampoo $8, burtsbees.ca
It's a win-win situation for you and the environment with this eco-friendly, sulfate-free shampoo.

2 AVEDA

Sun Care Hair and Body Cleanser, $21, aveda.com
This treatment has Morikue protein, which restores vitality to sun, sea and chlorine damaged hair.

3 KORRES

Red Vine Hair Sun Protection Spray $17, korres.com
Save the environment and protect your hair with this protection spray. The vitamin B5 actively hydrates dry hair and leaves a silky texture.

4 BUMBLE AND BUMBLE

Crème de Coco Shampoo $22, bumbleand bumble.com
Crème de Coco makes for an exotic shower experience thanks to both its rich coconut fragrance and its moisturizing qualities.

5 DAVINES

Moisturizing Replenshing shampoo $21, davines.com
Davines' formula of fatty acids, avocado oil and almond effectively removes chlorine residue and revives weakened hair.

6 FRÉDÉRIC FEKKAI

Marine Clean Detox Shampoo $24, fekkai.com Fekkai's marine botanicals actively detox and replenish hair with a UV shield to prevent future fading.

7 KÉRASTASE

Soleil Huile Céleste $37, kerastase.com
The macadamia-infused oil is designed specifically to protect against harmful UV rays.

RICHARD PECKETT

Make it a Tex-Mex night

These Fajitas offer a healthy twist on an old fave by using beef & asparagus

Serve on whole-wheat tortillas

BOTH PHOTOS:THE CANADIAN PRESS HO

These colourful beef fajitas are filled with vegetables. Set out bowls of Boston lettuce leaves, chopped tomato, shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack with jalapeno cheese and sour cream and let the Tex-Mex fun begin!

Preparation:

1. In a bowl, stir together chili powder, cumin, salt and pepper; rub into both sides of steak.
2. In a bowl, combine asparagus, mushrooms, garlic, peppers, onion, oil and oregano. Then stack tortillas and double wrap in foil.
3. Place steak on greased grill and vegetables in grilling basket over medium-high heat. Close lid and grill steak until medium-rare, about 8 minutes, turning once. Transfer steak to cutting board; tent with foil. Let stand for 5 minutes.
4. Grill vegetables, tossing occasionally, until tender-crisp, 8 to 10 minutes. Meanwhile, place tortillas on grill and warm through, about 3 minutes.
5. To serve, slice steak thinly across grain. In bowl, combine steak, vegetables and cilantro, if using. Serve with warm tortillas and desired accompaniments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO

Ingredients:

- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) each chili powder and ground cumin
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 500 g (1 lb) beef grilling steak (strip loin or sirloin)
- 500 g (1 lb) asparagus, trimmed; cut into quarters
- 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) sliced white mushrooms
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 sweet peppers, seeded and sliced into strips
- 1 onion, halved and thinly sliced lengthwise
- 20 ml (4 tsp) vegetable oil
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dry oregano
- 6 whole-wheat tortillas
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) cilantro sprigs (optional)

▶ This recipe will serve six.

The Enchilada Roll-Ups are made in the slow cooker, which frees you up to enjoy the warm spring weather

▶ Pair these Enchilada Roll-Ups with a garden salad.

Now that gardening, cycling or other outdoor activities are in full swing, your slow cooker can be even more useful to simmer dinner.

These Enchilada Roll-Ups are a dish that would be perfect.

Preparation:

1. Cut each chicken breast lengthwise into 2 or 3 strips. Combine the chicken with 125 ml (1/2 cup) of the flour and salt in a resealable food bag. Shake well to coat the chicken.
2. Heat the butter in stoneware of slow cooker on your stove top. Brown the chicken strips, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Add the chicken broth, scrape up any browned bits. Transfer the chicken from the stoneware to the slow cooker base. Add the onion, jalapeno pepper and oregano. Cover and cookthe mixture on low for 7 to 8 hours.
3. In a bowl, blend 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the flour and milk or whipping cream (whichever you are using) until it is smooth. Stir into the chicken mixture and cook, uncovered, on high for 15 minutes, or until it is thickened.
4. Spoon the mixture onto centre of the flour tortillas. Fold and garnish with grated cheese and black olives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CROCK-POT

Ingredients:

- 750 g (1 1/2 lb) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 125 ml plus 30 ml (1/2 cup plus 2 tbsp) flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) chicken broth
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, diced
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried oregano
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) milk or whipping cream
- Six 18- to 20-cm (7- to 8-inch) flour tortillas
- Grated cheddar cheese and sliced black olives, for garnish

Lasagna for the potato lovers

ISTOCK

This unique take on lasagna was created by chef Gordon Bailey of Lot 30 Restaurant in Charlottetown.

Preparation:

1. Heat heavy-bottomed pan on high and coat with cooking oil. Sauté chicken with onion and 2 cloves of chopped garlic. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
2. Melt butter with remaining garlic. Toss potatoes with melted butter mix until evenly coated. Season with salt, pepper.
3. In oven proof baking dish, layer potatoes, tomatoes, zucchini, chicken, thyme, oregano and parsley. Cover and bake, in 350 F (180 C) oven for 45 mins until layers are easily pierced. Uncover and sprinkle with cheese and bake for 10 mins. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ PEI POTATOES

Ingredients:

- 1 lb (500 g) extra lean ground chicken
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) diced onion
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 6 large peeled potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) butter
- 4 large tomatoes, sliced
- 2 zucchinis, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) each chopped fresh thyme, oregano and parsley
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) goat cheese, crumbled

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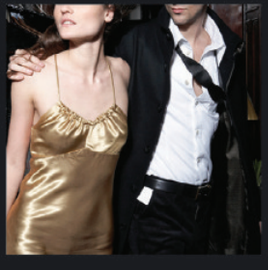

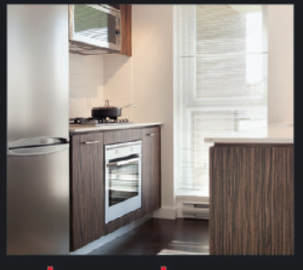

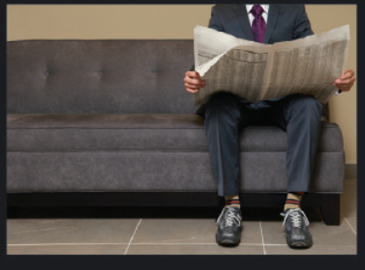

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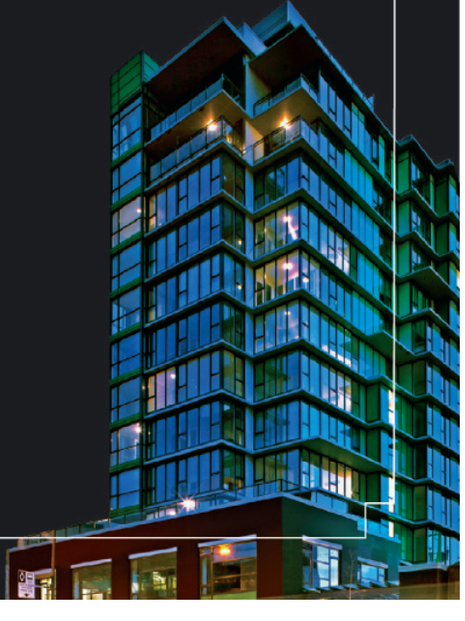

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011
METRO SPACES

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▶ Avondale single, four-bedroom family homes offer a clean, practical aesthetic with 20-foot ceilings and a landscape that maximizes privacy. The design is simple, effective and family-friendly.

Morningstar Homes Ltd. single family home development is custom-fit to fulfill all your needs
Decked out with practical amenities and a glorious view of Coquitlam's Burke Mountain

Wishlist homes in Avondale

STEPHANIE ORFORD
FOR METRO

Morningstar Homes Ltd. took a decidedly fairy-godmother approach to building their Avondale single family home development on Coquitlam's Burke Mountain.

They asked the people who had bought homes in Morningstar's other Coquitlam neighbourhoods what they would change about their houses. What would their dream homes look like?

Then Morningstar took that wish list and granted it, incorporating the homeowners' ideas into the 66 open-concept homes that make up Avondale. The wishes included larger secondary bedrooms, a larger mudroom in the entryway and a larger kitchen island.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Exterior set amidst Burke Mountain.

Meet the home

- **WHAT:** Avondale
- **BUILDER:** Morningstar Homes Ltd
- **LOCATION:** Coquitlam's Burke Mountain
- **WEBSITE:** morningstarhomes.bc.ca
- **PHONE:** 604-941-6512
- **SIZES:** From 3,746 to 3,916 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** Starting at $819,000

Involving the community in designing the homes was simple, but effective. Home sales have been brisk since Avondale homes started selling in April, said Deborah Calahan, Morningstar's vice president of sales and marketing. "It's just been a fantastic response."

Designed by Frederick T. Sale, the four-bedroom, three-level homes run from 3,746 to 3,916 square feet and have two and a half bathrooms. There are three floor plans to choose from, and prices start at $819,900.

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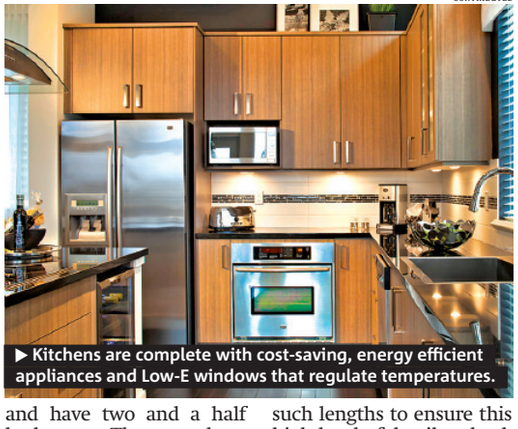

▶ Kitchens are complete with cost-saving, energy efficient appliances and Low-E windows that regulate temperatures.

They are designed with practicality in mind, as the mudrooms attest. Other family-friendly features include a trough sink in the kitchen and landscaping that maximizes privacy. The homes also have energy efficient appliances like low-flush toilets, Energy Star® dishwashers and Low-E windows that help regulate indoor temperatures throughout the year.

"We have never gone to such lengths to ensure this high level of detail and value for homebuyers," said Dale Barron, Morningstar founder and CEO, in a press release.

Because of Morningstar's efforts to cater to the needs of local families, Avondale homes are like custom homes that have volume prices, said Calahan. Since the company was founded in 1999, "we've just grown by leaps and bounds," she said.

A clean design aesthetic was obviously also on the wish list. The homes have

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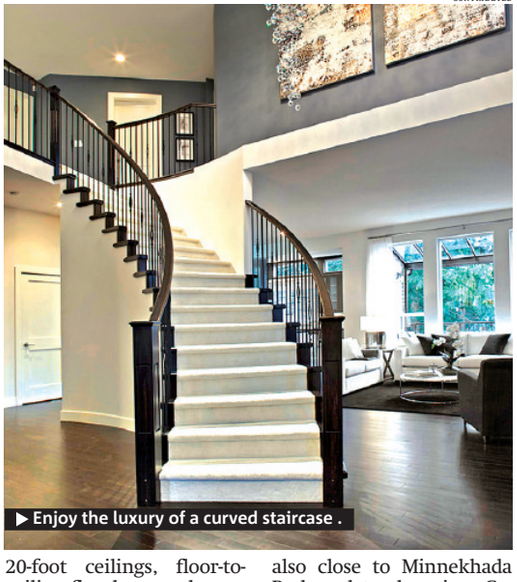

▶ Enjoy the luxury of a curved staircase .

20-foot ceilings, floor-to-ceiling fireplaces and granite countertops. Other luxuries, including a curved staircase and soaker tub, depend on the home model.

The view from Burke Mountain is one of the homes' greatest luxuries — and one they're designed to maximize. The homes are also close to Minnekhada Park and to shopping. Coquitlam Centre and other amenities are a short drive away.

"[Avondale is] a few minutes up the hill, but you feel like you're away from it all," said Calahan.

Check out morningstarhomes.bc.ca for more information.

Imagine living in luxury

- Combine the convenience and culture of the city with nature
- Building aesthetics are like that of a leaves on the branch of a tree

SAM SMITH
FOR METRO

A new, 18-storey condo development designed of reinforced concrete and glass is almost done in Wesbrook Village, next to UBC. Scheduled to finish by the fall, this strong, green-fitted condominium includes some of the more cutting-edge in green technology and design to enhance luxury living, but not at the expense of the environment.

Architect Richard Henriquez said he was inspired by nature and the education that surrounds it, thus was born the appropriately titled Sage building featuring 115 apartments, seven townhouses and two penthouses. The building was designed with a tree in mind, providing inspiration for the staggered balconies and patios, similar to leaves on a branch. This also gives more sunlight and a sense of openness to the building's outdoor patios.

Edwin Liang, manager of marketing and sales for Kenstone Properties, said the condo was designed for people who want the best of both worlds.

"We design for the people who really didn't want to compromise between the convenience and culture of, say, a downtown location and who wanted to be surrounded by nature and a sustainable community," Liang said.

This is why the Wesbrook Place location was perfect. With the building located near a world-renowned museum, concert hall, theatre, university and outdoor activities, residents have an array of choices at their disposal.

Sage is bordered by a forest to the east with a pedestrian pathway leading to Pacific Spirit Park. To the west lies the Wesbrook Mall, and Wreck Beach is a bit farther along but within walking and biking distance.

Inside, Sage features an acoustically engineered yoga/pilates studio. High ceilings are throughout apartments — living rooms have 8'6" ceilings. There's also oak wood flooring and 100 per cent plush wool carpeting in the bedrooms.

The custom-designed kitchens by Dada of Italy come with polished quartz slab countertops with micro bevel edge detailing, full face outer-drawer and double inner-drawer systems and much more.

"We have sold over 90 per cent of the building already," Liang said.

The Wesbrook Place team includes developer Ken Liang, architect Richard Henriquez and interior designer Merike Lainevool.

Phase 2 opens at the end of June to all members of the public.

Townhouses too

Sage was also designed with seven townhouses facing toward the pedestrian pathway. These three-storey buildings boast 9'3" floor-to-ceiling heights on the ground floor and 8'9" on the second. A wall-mounted 37-inch electric fireplace, a double car garage with direct home access and in-suite security panels with door and window contacts, as well as motion sensors. They also have three bedrooms, three bathrooms and a powder room available.

Meet the condo

- **WHAT:** Sage Condominiums
- **BUILDER:** Kenstone Properties
- **LOCATION:** Wesbrook Place at UBC
- **WEBSITE:** kenstoneproperties.com
- **PHONE:** 604-733-6030
- **SIZES:** Apartments from 900 to 1,300 sq. ft.; townhouses and penthouse from 2,389 to 2,516 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** Apartments from $700,000 to more than $1 million; townhouses and penthouses from $1.8 million to $3 million plus

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▶ Sage Condominiums offer residents the best of both worlds, combining modern-living, convenience, culture and nature. Enjoy luxurious interior design, while being steps away from museums, shops, parks and trails. You'll want to come and go anytime.

TAXES AND FEES HAMPER AFFORDABLE LIVING

BITS & BITES

PETER SIMPSON
FOR METRO

According to RBC Economics Research, Vancouver is the least-affordable housing market in the country. Anyone surprised? Didn't think so. But countering the least-affordable tag is the bountiful praise folks heap on this region as a very liveable community. And, there is a relentless push to make our living environment the greenest on the planet.

That's a roller-coaster of barbs and bouquets. The situation seems out of balance.

Earlier this year the Frontier Centre of Public Policy blamed this region's unaffordable distinction on "politically inflated land costs, including restrictive growth boundaries, excessive infrastructure fees and overly strict land-use regulations." A recent study by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. confirmed the obvious — assorted taxes, fees and development charges add significant weight to the purchase of a new home or condo here.

For example, the study revealed that buyers of a new $567,000 detached home paid $108,000 in taxes and other imbedded charges imposed by the all levels of government.

Most of this whopping tax burden is undoubtedly lumped onto a mortgage, amortized over 25 years. I wonder how many potential home buyers in this region are turned down for mortgages because the excessive tax load on the homes takes the purchase price beyond the threshold required to qualify? The pursuit of housing affordability is an issue that warrants close attention.

PTT saga continues

Many organizations and individuals, including me, are calling for the mitigation of the provincial property transfer tax (PTT), which has raked in about $9 billion since the Socreds introduced it in 1987. Governments are hesitant to give up lucrative cash cows, but the current government might be willing to ease the PTT pain somewhat after taking heat over the HST's impact on new homes.

Offshore interest

Speaking at a recent Urban Development Institute luncheon, condo marketer Bob Rennie said 85 per cent of homes priced above $2 million on Vancouver's West Side are sold to buyers from Mainland China. Amazing!

Homes parade

Visit gvhba.org to learn more about the annual Parade of Renovated Homes, presented by the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association and FortisBC. Ten renovated homes will be open to the public on June 12. This one-day event offers attendees a wealth of ideas.

PETER SIMPSON IS THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION. EMAIL HIM AT PETER@GVHBA.ORG

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Plants for pots on patios

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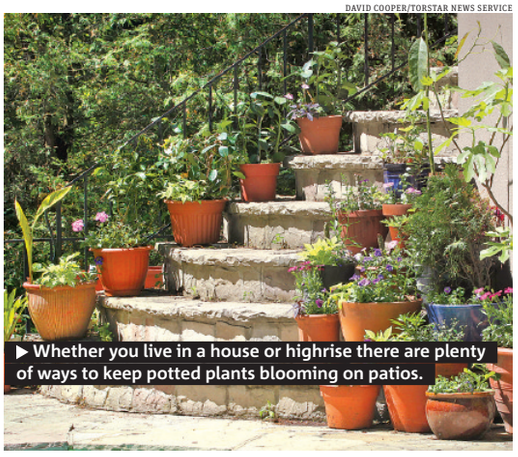

▶ Whether you live in a house or highrise there are plenty of ways to keep potted plants blooming on patios.

You can add excitement to a patio, deck or balcony even if your home is so new the builder hasn't laid down the sod. Enjoy colour and texture all season long — and for seasons to come with compact perennials that thrive in confined spaces, putting down their roots in transportable homes.

Those living in highrises will find using perennial charmers allow for greater plant selection on your balcony or patio. Imagine the advantages if your garden is in the shade, but the interlocking brick terrace or solid stonework porch area is in the sun.

Plant in containers to utilize that sunny or shady spot to display your favourite perennials. Using containers also allows you to determine the exact location you want to plant. Move it a dozen times until you find the ideal spot.

Carex Comans 'Frosty Curls' (Sedge)
I'd like to introduce you to an unusual sedge, perfect for creating a foundation to a display and adding structural effect to a container. Although sedges appear similar to grasses, they are not. Ideal for groundcover and containers, sedges form low to medium-high tufts that trail beautifully.

Frosty Curls is effective in a container. The unusual olive-green foliage displays near white leaf tips that arch and swirl over the rim of its home. The texture is fine and silky, like hair. This plant loves a rich, moist soil and is ground hardy Zones 7-9.

Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns' (Daylily)
The seductive, fragrant, canary-yellow flowers of this daylily bloom from May until frost. This variety is an ideal candidate for planting in a container, preferably beside an open window to allow the fragrance to drift. Daylilies are long-lived and ground-hardy Zones 3-9.

Happy Returns is a tetraploid daylily. Don't let this confuse you. Tetraploids have four sets of chromosomes and diploids have two, which means that it produces larger, more intense coloured flowers. The scapes (leafless stalks) are stronger and the flower and foliage substance heavier. Ground hardy Zones 3-9.

Cimicifuga ramosa 'Atropurpurea' (Purple Leaf Bugbane)
I grew this in my own yard last year and fell in love with it. Cimicifuga 'Atropurpurea' displays an astilbe-like flower combined with exotic foliage.

Use a larger container, as it grows to about five feet, and place it where its eye-catching creamy-white flowers and contrasting dark purple, lacy leaves can be seen. It's is a relatively late bloomer — late summer and fall — but the stunning leaf colour and texture provide full season attraction. 'Atropurpurea' enjoys morning sun in rich, moist soil. Ground hardy Zones 5-9.

Artemisia stelleriana 'Silver Brocade' (Wormwood Silver Sage)
Silver Brocade is a wonderful low-growing, silver-leaf plant capable of bringing together plant combinations of unusual contrasting colours. The attractive silvery-white, scalloped foliage, evergreen in milder regions, makes this an excellent choice for pots and hanging baskets. Enjoys a sunny location and is ground hardy Zones 3-9.

Heuchera 'Amber Waves' (Coral Bells)
Don't miss Heuchera Amber Waves! Recent breeding carried out with Heuchera has produced outstanding foliage in unimaginable colours.

Amber Waves is incredibly beautiful with light rose coloured flowers and ruffled, amber-gold foliage. This plant works with any colour combination and is a magnet for hummingbirds and butterflies!

Enjoys a partial shade location and is hardy Zones 4-9.

Planting tip

- Enjoy the versatility of growing perennials in containers. This is a great time to explore the garden centre for lots of new and exciting ideas. Experiment and take up the challenge of discovering at least one new plant as well as those you are familiar with!

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ON THE MARKET

RYAN DELUCA
FOR METRO

Jason Adams is a 40-year-old, single, first-time homebuyer. He is looking to buy a one-bedroom, one-bathroom condominium unit in the West End of Vancouver. His price point: $360,000 to $400,000.

Of utmost importance to Jason is a building that has not had any water or "leaky condo" issues (this is an issue that arose in the early '80s causing water to seep into the building envelope and cause substantial damage. It is extremely expensive to repair). Jason would also like a garden suite yard; at minimum, a balcony that is large enough for a patio set and barbecue. While Jason does not have a car, he knows parking affects resale value and therefore he'd like to have one parking stall. At the bottom of his wish list is a view — it's only nice-to-have but not necessary if the condo meets all the other criteria. He also wants something within walking distance to amenities such as cafes, restaurants and bars.

Being a first-time homebuyer, Jason is a bit nervous about finding something that suits his needs. But he shouldn't worry. Here are three great units that he should look at.

RYAN DELUCA IS A REAL ESTATE AGENT WITH SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY CANADA

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Mere steps from the beach and seawall, this one bedroom West End condo with balcony and hardwood floors is ideal.

416-1355 Harwood St.
$369,800

CONTRIBUTED

▶ With 657 square feet of living space, this unit has an updated kitchen and in-suite laundry.

A fully renovated gem in the heart of Vancouver's West End, this unit will not last long, says listing Realtor Christopher Wendland of Macdonald Realty Ltd. The one-bedroom and one-bathroom unit, which is mere steps from the beach and seawall, boasts 657 square feet of living space. Unlike many buildings, this condo has the added convenience of an in-suite laundry. It also has an updated kitchen. The included parking stall will serve to keep up the property's value and can be rented out while Jason is living there. A large balcony facing the courtyard and a shady northern exposure will ensure privacy and a comfortable temperature is maintained year round.

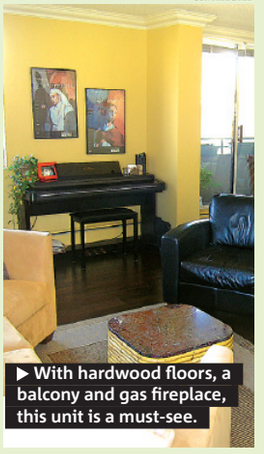
CONTRIBUTED

▶ This building boasts a great view of English Bay.

302-1003 Pacific St.
$385,000

This one-bedroom and one-bathroom unit, listed with Soheil Roohani of Re/Max Crest Realty, is a large 725 square foot unit. Also containing in-suite laundry and one parking space, this unit has an added solarium in lieu of an outdoor balcony. While Jason did want outdoor space, the added indoor square footage may be just enough for him to make this unit a solid contender. The gas fireplace and a sunny bright south-eastern exposure with sought-after views of English Bay top off this fantastic listing.

CONTRIBUTED



▶ With hardwood floors, a balcony and gas fireplace, this unit is a must-see.

1101-1816 Haro St.
$389,000

This one-bedroom and one-bathroom 689 square foot unit is right in the heart of Vancouver's West End. Stunning espresso-stained hardwood floors line this unit and give a sophisticated look to the space. With one parking stall and one storage locker, this fantastic unit, listed by real estate couple Tim and Mark Hiltz of Dexter Associates Realty, has the desired outdoor balcony and a great north-eastern exposure. Beautiful city and mountain views give it the West Coast feel that Jason loves. Being only steps to the trails of Stanley Park and shops on Denman St., the area can't be beat.

CLEARING THE AIR WITH SMOKY NEIGHBOURS

ASK THE EXPERT

JOE BERTA
FOR METRO

Q: What can I do about my neighbour's smoking?

A: Competing rights often conflict in a densely populated living situation. If your neighbour's smoking is an issue and you need to butt out second-hand smoke, you have options.

First, talk to your neighbour and see if you can clear the air directly. Your neighbour may not realize the problem and may be willing to work with you.

If that doesn't work, send a letter to the strata corporation (or if you're renting, to the landlord) and ask for help. Even if your strata corporation has not adopted a no-smoking bylaw, drifting smoke may constitute a nuisance under Section 3 of the Standard Bylaws. If you're a tenant, drifting smoke may be a breach of your right of quiet enjoyment under the Residential Tenancy Act.

You may also be able to rely on the Human Rights Code. In a recent case, the owners of a strata lot commenced a human rights complaint because the strata corporation did not act to stop drifting smoke from entering their unit. The strata corporation tried to get the case dismissed. The Human Rights Tribunal refused to dismiss the complaint, and the strata corporation worked with the owners to find a mutually satisfactory resolution.

Applications under the Residential Tenancy Act and the Human Rights Code are fairly simple to navigate and many people proceed without the legal assistance.

Once you raise the issue, you may find that your neighbours have the same complaint and that you have allies.

If all else fails, the common law of nuisance prevents others from unreasonably interfering with property. Canadian courts have granted injunctions to prevent smoking where neighbours have demonstrated harm. If you've exhausted all avenues, talk to a lawyer about taking your case to court.

JOE BERTA IS A REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS LAWYER AT MCQUARRIE HUNTER LLP IN SURREY

Yaletown is the place to be

AS TOLD TO **PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS**

Yaletown is the best area of Vancouver because it's central and in the heart of downtown.

There's no need take a cabs or own a car because everything's minutes away.

If I want to go out for drinks or dinner, I put on something nice and walk up the street. Bars, cafes, shops, boutiques and even the aquatic centre are a couple of blocks away.

The ambiance and sense of community makes you want to get outdoors. Getting to school is easy. I just walk across the Granville Street Bridge.

If you jog or walk, you can enjoy the stunning views of Granville Island, English Bay and the Seawall.

Yaletown is Vancouver's transit hub. The Canada Line runs to Surrey, New Westminster or Burnaby.

The architecture, art, food, scenery and fashion are also visually inspiring. It's so clean, modern and beautiful.

There are venues where I can express my creativity, such as the Canvass Lounge, where you can eat while painting.

I never really liked living in a small town but being in a small community like Yaletown in Vancouver is perfect.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/FOR METRO

▶ Brandon Hamilton

About Brandon

- **NAME:** Brandon Hamilton
- **AGE:** 26
- **WHERE:** Yaletown
- **JOB:** Full-time student and part-time events co-ordinator

Living here never worried me about gay bashing or violence.

I feel safe here.

SOLD

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

6337 Larch St., Kerrisdale
LISTED: $3.28 million
SOLD: $3.3 million

This single-family house had multiple offers and sold in just 11 days. With five bedrooms and four bathrooms and at 3,673 square feet, the house sits on a lot area of 9,902 square feet. This home was described by listing agent Andrew Carros of Sotheby's International Realty as "a very traditional 1912 home, which has been lovingly renovated from top to bottom while maintaining the heritage style of the property. Just down the street from Elm Park on Larch Street., this house is in a much sought-after neighbourhood in Vancouver."

3003-131 Regiment Sq., Downtown Vancouver
LISTED: $329,000
SOLD: $325,000

With southern exposure, this studio (0 bedrooms) in downtown Vancouver is 510 square feet. On the 30th floor, There are stunning water and city views. Maintenance fees of $233.54 per month cover maintenance, gardening, a caretaker, garbage and common areas such as the indoor swimming pool. Listing agent Klaus Rode of Bruce Ward Realty says: "Here is a gem right in the heart of all the action. This downtown studio is steps from transit, shops and sporting venues. Sold fully furnished (in just 11 days), this condo was used as a corporate rental investment."

2725 Trinity St., Vancouver
LISTED: $699,000
SOLD: $767,000

This three-bedroom, one-bathroom detached home is 2,024 square feet and sits on a lot of 4,125 square feet. A traditionally laid out home with a backyard of 33 x 125 square feet, there is no lack of relaxation space here. Re/Max Select Realty agents Darry Sjerven and Karel Palla explain: "This home is a real gem. With only two owners in its lifetime, this house has been carefully cared for over the years. Nestled on one of Vancouver's most beautiful tree lined streets, you are mere minutes from all the action the city has to offer."

RYAN DELUCA

5 deadly decorating trends

Karl Lohnes reveals the five home decorating trends NOT to fall in love with in 2011

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@
METRONEWS.CA

It's easy to get caught up in the new trends each year, and so far 2011 has brought forward a huge change in home decor.

The 1970s and early 1980s are dominating the looks; from punchy patterns, shiny metallics to the heaven-help-us colours of painted appliances.

Trends usually come in three timelines: five-year trends like flooring, paint colours and furniture pieces; two-year trends like bedding, towels and lighting and then seasonal trends like candles, faux florals and table-top accessories. In short, the more money you spend on something, the longer it should fit its trend life.

Here's a roundup of this year's biggest decor trends that you'd be best staying away from.

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Grey power

All this trendy grey colour that we've been seeing is simply a way to ease our eyes away from the golden-taupe colours we were decorating with over the past 10 years. Unfortunately grey will only be around for about one to two years so use it sparingly. Want a bit of grey to update your space and feel trendy? I suggest using it in small amounts like painting a powder room or adding grey bed sheets. For paint, choose cooler/grey-based paint colours; shadowy, cool colours are what's important to achieve, not the actual colour of grey.

Antique brass

There's a popularity of getting away from the shiny chrome and nickel plated finishes and going toward and unpolished brass; certainly a dramatic change. Unpolished brass; like grey paint colours is being used as a catalyst to get us away from the silvery-tones metals. I suggest using old brass finishes only on old traditionally inspired pieces. A classic old-fashioned wall sconce or brass nailhead trim on the edge of a leather wingback chair will belong forever.

Large print wallpaper

Large floral prints, metallic and velvet flocking are all reminiscent of the 1970s. Anyone who just removed the original stuff hung 40 years ago sure as heck will never be hanging it again.

I suggest using this new trend in a very selective way; use it on one wall as a focal point like behind a bed.

For less of a commitment, frame the trendy stuff in large, inexpensive Ikea frames and hang in groupings. If wallpapering the walls, be sure to prime the walls properly so that when the time comes the paper can be easily removed.

Honeysuckle pink

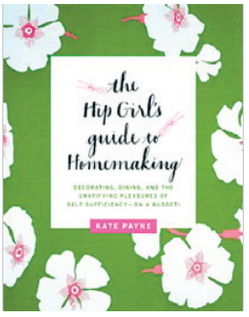
That bright, rich pink is (by The Pantone Institute standards) the colour of 2011. It is an optimistic colour which is 'good for the times' they say. The only way I would use it is if Pantone could magically turn me into a teenage girl. Pink is one of the most difficult colours to accept in decorating although if used properly, it becomes unnoticeable. How to use: Have it as a third colour in the room, not first or second. Some great colour combinations to incorporate pink: grey/teal/pink or brown/beige/pink.

1970s-inspired furnishings

Chrome tubular, caramel leather, owl-motifs, useless ceramic and pottery figurines are iconic of the 1970s and will most likely be admired by some born after 1970.

How to use: Selectively, one '70s classic piece can absorb itself into the room without being overly noticeable and add some charm.

Hip girls cook and clean



A new book includes tips on how to make homemaking cool again ◗ It features an entire chapter on preserving household food ◗ And some other ways to feel that domesticated bliss

TINA CHADHA
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

These days, in addition to successful careers, we want to grow our own tomatoes, bake organic muffins and throw awesome dinner parties to serve them.

Kate Payne taps into this movement toward domesticity and self-sufficiency with her new tome, The Hip Girl's Guide to Homemaking.

But the last time we checked, twentysomethings don't read Good Housekeeping. so what exactly makes keeping home hip?

"Well, (the book) doesn't assume you have no other obligations," explains the writer and thrift store expert.

"As I've gotten older, I'd go to people's houses who maybe have more resources and feel like I want to have a nice place, too."
KATE PAYNE

"It's for people who have busy schedules, who have jobs. Whereas the less-modern manuals are like, 'here's how to do everything' — and they make you feel bad if you don't do it."

Never tried a cross-stitch?

No problem. Payne's approach is geared toward beginners and filled with tips and easy-to-do, wallet-friendly projects to make your generic rented apartment feel like home.

"As I've gotten older, I'd go to people's houses who maybe have more resources and feel like I want to have a nice place, too," said Payne.

ISTOCK PHOTO

▶ It's easy to make homemaking hip again

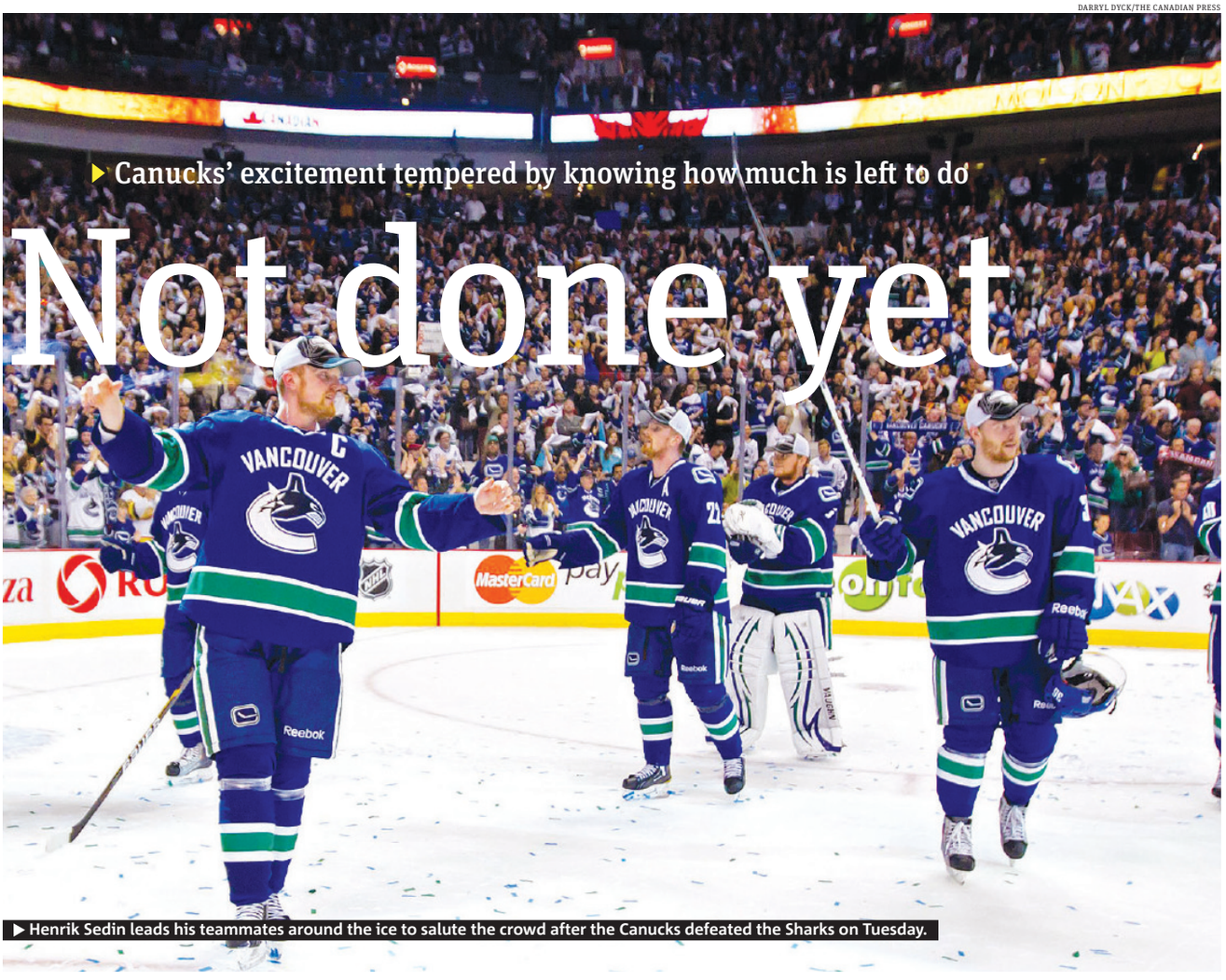
Easy tips

For the girl who hasn't cooked much or potted a plant, Payne offers tips on becoming more domesticated.

- **Tip No. 1** Explore some ways to use real linens in your house, maybe just some cute napkins. They get thrown into the mix of the laundry anyway, so it's not a big hassle. And not just when guests come — even if you eat your cereal by yourself (use linen napkins). It's weird, but it makes you feel like, 'Wow, look at me. I'm civilized.'
- **Tip No. 2** Try eating breakfast in your home three days a week. That way you can ease into cooking so it's not super stressful and you're not like, 'Oh my god, I have to cook every dinner at home for the rest of my life.' Breakfast is a good place to start. It sparks this feeling of, 'Wow, I'm really self sufficient.'
- **Tip No. 3** Cleaning is not fun. But take baking soda to the bathroom sink and feel instantly gratified that it's going to scrub off all that gross goo, and you're not using anything toxic. It's actually kinda fun to see the before and after.

4 sports

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canucks' excitement tempered by knowing how much is left to do

Not done yet

Henrik Sedin leads his teammates around the ice to salute the crowd after the Canucks defeated the Sharks on Tuesday.

Quoted

"You could ask 27 teams and I think they're a little jealous at the success we've had ... To get here is an accomplishment, but next year we've got to beat it."

SAN JOSE CAPTAIN JOE THORNTON ON BEING ELIMINATED BY THE VANCOUVER CANUCKS IN THE WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS TUESDAY NIGHT. THORNTON LED THE SHARKS IN PLAYOFF POINTS AND GUTTED THROUGH GAME 5 WITH A SEPARATED SHOULDER.

Scan code for more sports.

The excitement rippling through the Vancouver Canucks is tempered with the realization the biggest prize hasn't been won yet.

The Canucks, who have never hoisted a Stanley Cup, will be playing in the final for the first time in 17 years. They have the chance to become the first team since the 1993 Montreal Canadiens to bring the NHL championship home to Canada.

A bunch of grown men are living the dream. It's the fantasy of every kid that shoots a ball playing street hockey, or takes that first wobbling step on the ice wearing skates and carrying a stick.

"All the hard work through my life, now I have the chance to battle for the Stanley Cup," said forward Alex Burrows, who went undrafted and worked his way to the NHL after playing in hockey outposts like Baton Rouge, La., and Greenville, S.C.

"We have to refocus, re-energize and get used to it."

"I said to my family before the series started, this is what I've been waiting for my whole life. I've been working hard all year to be in this situation."

ROBERTO LUONGO

Vancouver fans, who have endured 40 years of hope, frustration and disappointment, heaped loads of expectations on the best Canucks team in franchise history.

"I'm extremely proud of my players, the organization," said coach Alain Vigneault. "Real happy for the fans.

"This has been a long time coming. Like we said at the start of the season, we were in this not to win one round (of the playoffs), two rounds, three rounds. But to get into this to win the Stanley Cup. Now we're going to get the opportunity to compete for it."

The Canucks used defenceman Kevin Bieksa's goal in double overtime Tuesday night to defeat the San Jose Sharks 3-2. Vancouver won the best-of-seven NHL Western Conference final 4-1.

"When it went in, I just yelled out 'Let's go to the Cup,'" said Bieksa. "It's a good feeling."

The win came exactly 17 years after Greg Adams scored in double overtime to give Vancouver a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 1994 Western Conference final. The Canucks went on to lose that Stanley Cup final to the New York Rangers in seven games.

Since then there have been some bad teams in Vancouver. There have also been some good teams that underachieved in the playoffs.

"We've been battling hard for a lot of years together," said captain Henrik Sedin. "To finally be here, it's a great feeling."

Henrik and twin brother Daniel are the current longest serving Canucks, having played since the 2000-01 season.

The first game of the final will be played in Vancouver, but the NHL has not announced a date yet.

Vancouver looked shaky in the first round of the playoffs, needing seven games to defeat the Chicago Blackhawks after taking a 3-0 lead in the series. Since then the Canucks have found their footing on the long road to the final, winning eight of 11 games.

Some of the Canucks' best players are now playing their best hockey. Vancouver has depth up front, a mobile, physical defence, and one of the best goaltenders in the league in Roberto Luongo.

Henrik Sedin has two goals and 14 assists in the last eight games. That's after no goals and just five assists in the 10 previous games.

Daniel Sedin, who won this year's scoring race with 104 points, has three goals and five assists in the last eight games. Burrows, the Sedins' linemate, has stepped up with goals in the last three games.

Luongo made a staggering 54 saves against the Sharks in Game 5. He's allowed two or less goals 10 times in the last 13 games.

"We have got different guys stepping up each night," said Henrik Sedin. "Lui usually closes the door in the third.

"We've got a good feeling here. We work hard for each other. It's a fun team to be part of."

Luongo said past Canuck teams have had talent. This year they have built a team.

"We've got different guys chipping in every night," he said. "That's what made us successful all year.

"It's not always the same guy or same line contributing. We've got four great lines." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facial hair apparent in playoffs

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RYAN KENNEDY
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

It's become such a trend that some players these days aren't satisfied with just growing a playoff beard — they've branched off into playoff mullets and playoff mutton chops. But for the hockey traditionalists who forego shaving while they're in search of Stanley, a big, bushy chin is the way to go.

The playoff beard is now decades old.

The New York Islanders dynasty of the early 1980s is often cited as the starting point and Hall of Fame defenceman Denis Potvin even joked that his mom told him to win a second Stanley Cup so she could have a nice picture of him holding it — one without a thicket of hair surrounding his face.

Since then, the playoff beard has been a badge of honour for those lucky enough to go deep in the post-season.

But there have been cheaters, too. Traditionally, players are to have stopped shaving the day the playoffs begin, but many eager beavers (some going on the technicality that their push just to get into the tournament felt like the post-season already) jumped the gun this year and were sporting full growth by the middle of the first round.

The players will tell you that superstition is a big part of the ritual and no matter how itchy the look may get, they won't shave until their team is eliminated or they are hoisting the Cup.

But defenceman Chris Pronger hasn't had much trouble getting to the final in recent years and he rarely sports any stubble. Nonetheless, it's fun to see what the players come up with and just how woolly things can get.

Beards of note

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1 Scott Niedermayer — While a sponsorship with Just for Men didn't come in 2007, Niedermayer can be satisfied with his full trophy room and a sure-fire spot in the Hall of Fame.

2 Jason Smith — The Oilers' stalwart defenceman was a perfect representation of that scrappy team's remarkable run to the 2006 final.

3 Scott Hartnell — The Flyers couldn't beat Chicago last year, but no one could top Hartnell's combination of wild orange hair and matching beard.

4 Ryan Malone — This year's frontrunner for best beard, the Bolts winger has paired his with an old-timey moustache.

RYAN KENNEDY

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MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Lightning's Martin St. Louis, far left, celebrates his second goal of Game 6 with teammates Steve Stamkos and Mike Lundin.

Bolts force Bruins to Game 7

5	4
LIGHTNING	BRUINS

Martin St. Louis and Teddy Purcell each scored twice, resilient goalie Dwayne Roloson weathered a hat trick by Boston's David Krejci, and the Tampa Bay Lightning stayed alive in the Eastern Conference finals with a 5-4 win over the Boston Bruins in Game 6 last night.

Game 7 is tomorrow night in Boston (CBC, 5 p.m.). The Bruins are seeking their first trip to the Stanley Cup finals in 21 years, and the Lightning will try to clinch their first appearance on hockey's biggest stage since they won their only NHL championship in 2004.

"We knew it was going to be a long series," St. Louis said. "The fourth win is always the toughest one to get and we know both teams will battle hard to get it."

St. Louis also assisted on a third-period goal that put the Lightning up 4-2. His second goal — and NHL-leading 10th of the playoffs — restored Tampa Bay's two-goal lead after Boston pulled within 4-3 on one of two goals Krejci scored to keep the Bruins within striking distance in the closing minutes.

Roloson, who didn't play in Game 5, gave up a pair of first-period goals and finished with 16 saves.

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NUTRILITE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Storm delay ruling 'unfair' to Whitecaps

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Toronto FC's Joao Plata, right, battles for the ball with Whitecap Jonathan Leather last night.

Mother Nature dealt the Vancouver Whitecaps a cruel blow last night while granting Toronto FC a do-over.

A relentless lightning storm that pounded Toronto throughout the evening forced the abandonment of the Canadian Nutrilite Championship final between Toronto and the visiting Whitecaps. The game was called off after it was already an hour old, and with Vancouver leading 1-0.

According to Canadian Championship rules, the match will be replayed in its entirety, which didn't sit well with the Whitecaps.

"It's unfair, I feel it's very unfair," Whitecaps coach Teitur Thordarson said. "Under these circumstances you have to start a new game, and obviously the advantage we got under this game doesn't count, so that is obviously unfair."

Thordarson and Toronto coach Aron Winter both said they had been aware of the ruling.

Officials rescheduled the game to 8 a.m. today. If the pitch isn't deemed up to playable standards by 6:30 a.m., the game will be rescheduled for another day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Advantages of finishing in 5

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RORY BOYLEN
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Good thing the Canucks were able to work some regulation magic in the dying seconds of Game 5 of the Western Conference final and get a favourable bounce in overtime to end the series then and there. Because if their matchup with the San Jose Sharks went on any longer, you'd have to start worrying about fatigue and injuries setting in.

Before Game 5 started, the Canucks seemed destined for a Stanley Cup. The West final was never tilted against them and since their conference is so much deeper than the East, whoever they matched up with in the final would be seen as inferior competition.

But in Game 5, Ryan Kesler sustained a lower-body injury, appearing to tweak his groin. He only sat for a few minutes and, after some tender moments, resumed flying around the ice. He scored the game-tying goal and didn't let up on the physical side, but you have to wonder had the series returned to California and, perhaps even back to Vancouver, if Kesler would have been able to maintain his ferocity. Would an extended series with San Jose have affected his play in the final?

From the start of the playoffs, the Western Conference was favoured to house the eventual Cup winner. The only possible knock against whichever team represented the left coast was that they'd have to run a gauntlet of world-class teams and would arrive tired and banged-up.

At times this post-season, Roberto Luongo and Henrik Sedin, among others, have had their health questioned.

Knowing for sure whether somebody is injured or not is impossible to figure out, so all you can do is judge them by their play and try to pick out any shortfalls. Judging by Game 5, Luongo and Sedin are both 100 per cent.

But finishing the Sharks in five was crucial for the Canucks to ensure they get extra days of rest heading into the final. If there were lingering injuries that were hidden by adrenaline or something new picked up in the clinching win, the team can now rest with the benefit of having played fewer games in each series as they've gone along.

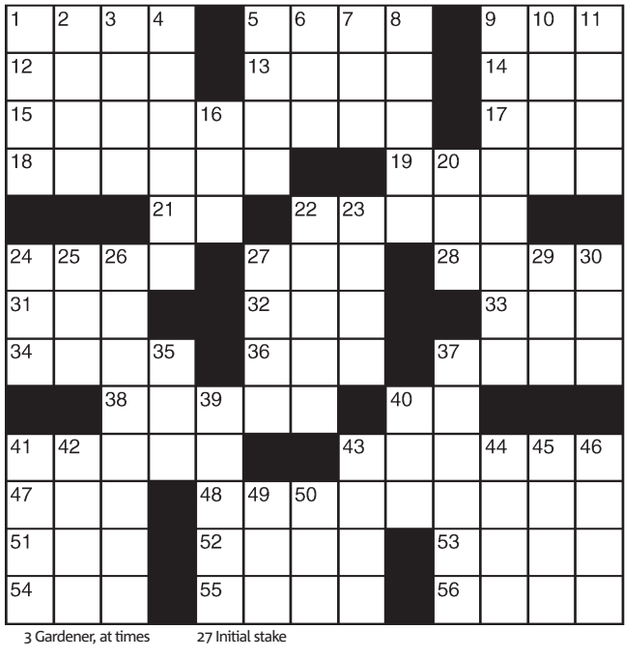
The Sedins have found their stride, Luongo has been dominant and the defence has become impenetrable, but you can never rest easy if your best player — Kesler to this point — is battling an injury.

So thank goodness the Canucks finished off the Sharks when they did, because the last thing the team or its fans want are bumps and bruises getting in the way of Lord Stanley.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The Canucks win over the Sharks in Game 5 should give players time to recover from the playoff grind.

Crossword



Across

1 Rue the workout
5 Conks on the noggin
9 Rx safety grp.
12 Glimpse
13 Emanation
14 Filch
15 Sort of basketball shot
17 Lamb's dam
18 Skilled
19 Occurrence
21 "People" rival
22 Big name in Cuban history
24 Present
27 Curved line
28 Pitch
31 Blunder
32 Ultramodernist
33 Suitable
34 Bump into
36 X rating?
37 Crucial time
38 Made comfortable
40 Exist
41 Secret society
43 Beachwear for a baby
47 Actress Mendes
48 Type of swim competition
51 Scale note
52 Green land
53 Pinnacle
54 Piercing tool
55 Highway
56 For fear that

Down

1 — Romeo
2 String
3 Gardener, at times
4 Barely manage
5 Money of Thailand
6 "— Father, who ..."
7 Expert
8 Cut into boards
9 Mooch
10 Puzzle direction
11 Help a hood
16 "— the season ..."
20 Doggy doc
22 DJ legend Alan
23 Pedestal occupant
24 Jewel
25 Anger
26 Plummet
27 Initial stake
29 Hot tub
30 Pigs' digs
35 Mai — (cocktail)
37 Health plan coverage
39 Less risky
40 Urban transport
41 Arizona city
42 Acknowledge
43 Start a garden
44 Big buildup
45 Milwaukee products
46 Libretto
49 Carnival city
50 Mound stat

▶ Yesterday's answer

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U	N	S	A	Y		E	L	M		L	Y	E
		A	D	O	S		O	A	R			
P	O	D	I	U	M		S	M	U	D	G	E
E	R	A	S		I	T	S	A	T	R	A	P
L	E	T	T		T	O	O		H	O	P	I
F	O	E	S		H	E	M		S	P	E	C

Sudoku

6		2	8		7	4		3
		5				7		
7	8						2	6
			6		8			
	1						6	
			4		2			
8	2						9	7
		9				1		
5		7	1		9	2		4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	1	3	4	2	9	5	6	7
4	7	9	6	8	5	2	1	3
5	2	6	1	3	7	9	4	8
9	3	8	2	7	1	4	5	6
1	6	4	9	5	3	8	7	2
2	5	7	8	6	4	3	9	1
3	4	1	7	9	2	6	8	5
7	8	2	5	4	6	1	3	9
6	9	5	3	1	8	7	2	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Bavinski, I love you with all my heart. I'm so glad I met you and I wouldn't change a thing if I could. Going on 2 years and it only gets stronger with each day. I love to think about the life we have ahead of us. No matter what the issue is our strength will get us thru. **B**

Baby Cakes, I just wanted to say how much I love & care about you...You truly are an amazing man and I'm so happy that you came into my life love always and forever..xoxo P.S Happy Anniversary. **CAREBEAR**

Michelle, Hi! Happy Birthday! I miss you so much! I hope you have the best Birthday, new year and everything you could ask for. I hope life treats you well, and every wish is accounted for! I love you so much! Can't wait to see you! xoxox **PAUL**

Today 13°/7° Showers 60%

Friday 13°/9° Rain 90%

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Put yourself forward and take initiative today. Make your own decisions.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You will face many challenges over the next few days, but you have what it takes to survive and to thrive.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A book or film will broaden your horizons today and raise your understanding to the next level.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Something of a joint nature needs to be handled carefully today, but it also needs you to make a final decision.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Let others know what you are thinking, but don't be too blunt or you may make it harder to get support.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As a Virgo, you have a serious destiny. You don't know what it is? You will soon. Look at the bigger picture.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Avoid extremes today but don't avoid a challenge. Tackle tough tasks.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If you are mindful of other people's needs today, you will accomplish a lot. Leave your ego at home.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You've got a lot on your mind, but the answers may come easier if you let your hair down a bit.

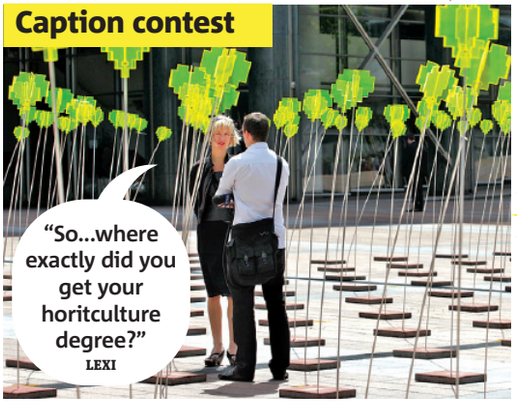
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Some people need motivating, others need loving. To you, both will come easy. It's the perfect balance.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Do something that makes important people sit up and take notice.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. If there's someone you want to impress, it's time to turn on the charm. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/YVES LOGGHE



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WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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2602 Mt. Lehman Rd.
32465 South Fraser Way
2140 Sumas Way

Aldergrove
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Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
4501 North Rd.

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
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45905 Yale Rd.
7544 Vedder Rd.

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Richmond Centre

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Grandview Corners
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